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THE  
MEDEA OF EURIPIDES,

WITH NOTES AND AN INTRODUCTION,

BY

FREDERIC D. ALLEN, PH. D.,  
PROFESSOR IN HARVARD UNIVERSITY.

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BOSTON, U.S.A..  
GINN & COMPANY, PUBLISHERS.  
1898.

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PRINTED BY GINN & Co., BOSTON, U.S.A.

## PREFACE.

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OF the conjectural emendations in the text of the *Medea* which have been, especially during the last few decades, proposed in great numbers, such and such only have been adopted in the present edition as seemed to me either quite certain or in the highest degree probable. For the rest the best manuscripts have been closely followed in the main. Anything like an incisive treatment of the text is, in my opinion, out of place in editions intended for learners. Only in a few hopelessly garbled passages the need of furnishing a readable text in decent metrical form has led me to admit bolder and more uncertain alterations. Here due warning is given the reader in the notes.

In interpretation I have striven for correctness rather than for originality, and have of course derived much from others. Brevity had to be studied, but I have not knowingly slurred over any real difficulty.

The following editions have been used: Porson's; Elmsley's (German reprint with Hermann's notes); Kirchhoff's editions of 1855 and 1867; Dindorf's (Oxford edition 1839, and *Poetae Scenici* 1868); Nauck's 3d edition, 1871,



also his *Euripideische Studien*; Schoene's Medea, 1853; Pflugk and Klotz's 3d edition, 1867; Witschel's, 1858; Paley's 2d edition, 1872; Weil's, 1868; Hogan's Medea, 1873; Wecklein's Medea, 1874. This last-named excellent work has been of especial use.

Corrections or suggestions from any quarter will be gratefully received.

F. D. A.

CINCINNATI, September, 1876.

# INTRODUCTION.



## I. EURIPIDES.

§ 1. **Life.** — What we know of Euripides' personal history, excluding what is plainly fabulous, is substantially this. He lived from 480, or a little earlier, to 406 B. c. The current belief was that he was born in Salamis on the day of the sea-fight, but this has the air of an invention. His father's name was Mnesarchus or Mnesarchides; his mother's, Clito. The latter at least was of humble origin. Euripides was of a studious and speculative turn, an ardent disciple of the philosophers and sophists of his day, Anaxagoras, Prodicus, Socrates, and others. His first play he exhibited at the age of twenty-five; thirteen years later he gained for the first time the first prize. Of a gloomy temperament, never personally popular with his countrymen, and not successful in his profession at first (he won only five dramatic victories), he seems to have suffered from a morbid sensitiveness, a consciousness of being misunderstood, a feeling sometimes reflected in his works. He lived aloof from the world, in the midst of his large collection of books. There was some trouble in his domestic relations; with neither his first nor his second wife did he live happily. His last years were spent abroad, first in Magnesia, then at the court of Archelaus, the Macedonian king, at Pella, where he died and was buried, a cenotaph being erected at Athens. He left three sons, the youngest of whom followed his father's profession. The popularity of his plays at the close of his life and throughout later antiquity was extraordinary.

§ 2. **Works.** — Of Euripides' works according to others 92) plays, there have come down to us 19, including the *Pirotos*, which is almost universally thought to be spurious. These are: *Ἀλκιστῆς*, *Ἀγροίσιμος*, *Βακχῆαι*, *Εὐμένης*, *Ἡλέκτρα*, *Ἡρακλέους*, *Ἡρακλῆς μαινομένης*, *Ιερώδης*, *Ἰππύτους*, *Ιον*, *Ἡ ὁ Αἰλίσ*, *Ἰον*, *Ἡ ὁ Τροίης*, *Ἡ ὁ Κικλῶν* (a satyric drama), *Μήρια*, *Ορέστης*, *Τροίης*, *Φυγίσιμος*. The dates of the following six are known with certainty: *Alkestis* 438; *Medea*, 431; *Hippolytus*, 428; *Ion*, 415; *Helen*, 412; *Orestes*, 408. A few others can be approximately placed. The *Bacchae* and *Iphigenia in Aulis* were produced after the poet's death.

§ 3. **Spirit and Tendency.** — Though a contemporary of Sophocles, Euripides belongs in spirit to a different age. He is a representative of the new Athens of his time, of the new ideas, political, moral, and aesthetic, which were just coming into vogue, supplanting the sterner and simpler notions of the old-fashioned citizens. It is the Athens of Demosthenes and Praxiteles, rather than that of Pericles and Phidias, for which Euripides wrote. Rhetoric and philosophical speculation had much to do with this change. Euripides shares the artificial tastes and the sceptical spirit of the new school.

To give vivid pictures of human passion is Euripides' chief aim, and in this his strength lies. He is in no sympathy with the mythical spirit; the myths he uses only as the vehicle of his own conceptions. The notion of an all-controlling Fate and of a hereditary family curse are much less prominent than with Aeschylus and Sophocles. There is less lofty ideality in his conceptions; his characters are more like those of every-day life, their passions less removed from common experience. This accords in general with modern taste; indeed, it has often been observed that Euripides stands nearer to the modern dramatists than do his predecessors. He excites often a livelier sympathy; hence Aristotle calls him "the most tragic of the poets." But Euripides has sometimes gone too far in this direction, and introduced characters too commonplace and incidents altogether trivial.

§ 4. **Style.** — Euripides is smooth and dexterous in the use of language; free from the turgidity of Aeschylus, but not free from rhetorical artifice. Even smaller verbal quibbles, paradoxical expressions, alliterations, and the like, he does not disdain. Characteristic of him are the long arguments between his personages on questions of right and wrong, sometimes quite irrelevant to the matter in hand. Almost every play has one or more of these. The author delights, even when one side is manifestly in the wrong, to display his skill in making out a specious argument. He is fond of philosophizing through the mouths of his characters, and the abundance of maxims (*γνώμαι*), reflections, and generalizations on social and religious topics — another effect of the rhetorical training of that day — went far to render Euripides attractive in later times. The histrionic art had developed in his day, and this influenced composition; the actors had to be furnished with telling and pointed speeches and striking situations. Scenery, too, had come to be a matter of importance, and some plays (*Troad.*, *Her. Fur.*) must have depended largely on their scenic effects for success.

§ 5. **Form.** — The internal economy of his plays is often defective; his plots lack coherence and compactness. In general he relies on striking passages and thrilling scenes more than on unity and symmetry of the whole. But there is much difference among his plays in this respect. Two things have been especially blamed: 1. The so-called *θεὸς ἀπὸ μηχανῆς*, the express interference of a god at the end of the play to solve the difficulties of the situation. 2. His prologues, long soliloquies in which the situation is expounded, often baldly and awkwardly, to the hearers. Euripides was responsible for metrical and musical innovations concerning the merits of which we can no longer judge. The chorus is diminished in importance; its odes are often mere interludes, having little to do with the dramatic situation. His later pieces show frequent resolutions in the iambi, and contain long and irregularly constructed monodies.

§ 6. **Moral Tendency.** — Euripides has been unjustly at-

tacked (notably by Aristophanes the comedian, and in modern times by Schlegel) on ground of exercising a debasing influence on morals. But much that seemed corrupting to his conservative contemporaries, as Aristophanes, cannot appear so to us; and those sentiments which have been cited as inculcating false morality seem mostly harmless when taken in connection with the situation and the persons who utter them. They are not to be taken for Euripides' own sentiments. To a few places in which the justice and providence of the gods are openly denied, exception may, perhaps, be fairly taken.

§ 7. **His Misogynism** was much blamed by the ancients, but this trait has been greatly exaggerated. Euripides brings forward in several plays women of strong passions and doing great mischief (Medea, Phaedra, Hecuba), but on the other hand has depicted noble and admirable types of womanhood (Alcestis, Iphigenia, Macaria). He possessed a deep insight into female character, and was fond of portraying it in all its phases, the dark as well as the light. He is particularly skilful in this, and his women, even the bold and unlovely ones, are thoroughly feminine.

Without trying to excuse his many defects, and without pretending to rank him with Aeschylus and Sophocles, we must yet recognize in Euripides dramatic genius of a high order.

§ 8. **Manuscripts and Scholia.** — The Euripidean manuscripts were first classified by Kirchhoff in his edition of 1855. Those which possess any authority form two classes. Nine plays (Hec., Or., Phoen., Med., Hipp., Alc., Andr., Troad., Rhes.) are extant in Mss. of both classes, the remaining ten in those of the second class only. These last plays were little known and read by the Byzantines, and have narrowly escaped perishing altogether.

CLASS 1. Uninterpolated copies (complete or partial) of a recension current in the Middle Ages, comprising the nine plays above mentioned. These Mss. have the highest authority. The principal ones are: *Codex Marcianus* in Venice (5 plays),

*Cod. Vaticanus* (9 plays), *Cod. Havniensis* (Copenhagen, 9 plays), *Cod. Parisinus* (6 plays).

CLASS 2. Copies of a different and far rarer recension which embraced at least 19 pieces, but contained a text of less purity, which had been tampered with by would-be correctors. The authority of these Mss. is therefore inferior, and the plays found only in them are accordingly difficult of criticism and cannot be so nearly restored. The two most important Mss. of this class are *Cod. Palatinus* at Rome (13 plays) and *Cod. Florentinus* (18 plays).

Scholia exist only to the nine plays found in Mss. of Class 1. Some of them are old and valuable. They are edited by W. Dindorf, Oxford, 1863, in 4 vols.

§ 9. **Editions.**—I name only the most important and comprehensive, omitting all of single plays :—

*R. Porson* (4 plays), 1797–1811.

*P. Elmsley* (3 plays), 1813–1821.

*G. Hermann* (12 plays), 1800–1841.

*A. Matthiae*, large edition, 10 vols., 1813–1837. Now antiquated.

*W. Dindorf*, Oxford edition with notes, 4 vols., 1832–1840. Most recently in *Poetae Scenici Graeci*, Leipzig, 1870.

*Pflugk* and *Klotz* (11 plays), Gotha and Leipzig, 1840–1867. Over-conservative.

*A. Kirchhoff*, larger edition with critical notes only, 2 vols., Berlin, 1855. This edition marks a new epoch in the text-criticism. Smaller edition with chief variants, 3 vols., Berlin, 1868.

*A. Nauck*, Text, 2 vols., Leipzig, 1871. Valuable emendations.

*F. A. Paley*, English notes, 3 vols., London, 1858–1860 (Vols. I. and II. now in second edition, 1872–1875).

*H. Weil* (7 plays), French notes, Paris, 1868.

Of separate editions of the *Medea* the following deserve mention :—

*Kirchhoff's*, Berlin, 1852.

*Schoene's*, Leipzig, 1853.

*Wecklein's*, Leipzig, 1874.

## II. THE MEDEA.

§ 10. The *Medea* was produced B. C. 431, with the *Philoctetes*, *Dictys*, and *Theristae*, and took only the third rank. It is presumably the earliest of the preserved plays, except the *Alcestis*. In merit it ranks at least as high as any.

§ 11. **Outline of the Plot.** — *Medea* is the daughter of *Aeetes*, king of *Colchis*, and like her father's sister, *Circe*, is endowed with knowledge of magic. Enamored of *Jason*, who comes with the *Argonauts* in quest of the *Golden Fleece*, she has enabled him by her arts to accomplish the tasks imposed on him by *Aeetes*, — the yoking of the fire-breathing bulls, the sowing of the dragon's teeth, the destruction of the crop of armed warriors, — and finally to slay the dragon which guarded the fleece itself; she has killed her brother *Apsyrtus* to facilitate their escape by detaining the pursuers, and has fled with *Jason* to *Greece*. They arrive at *Iolcus* in *Thessaly*, where the crafty *Pelias*, *Jason's* uncle, is king. The throne is rightfully *Jason's*, for *Pelias* had seized it from *Aeson*, *Jason's* father, and between the usurper and the rightful claimant there is mutual fear and distrust. In *Jason's* behalf *Medea* compasses the death of *Pelias*; she persuades his own daughters to slay him and boil him in a kettle, in the belief that through her enchantments they will thus be able to renew his youth. From the consequences of this deed *Jason* and *Medea* seek refuge in flight, and make their abode in *Corinth*. Here they live peacefully as exiles for a time, but *Jason* presently tires of his barbarian spouse, devoted though she is, and longs for a connection which shall advance him in wealth and dignity in his new home; accordingly he deserts *Medea*, and receives in marriage the daughter of *Creon*, the king of the country. All the passion of *Medea's* wild and unbridled nature is roused by this indignity. Here the play opens.

*Prologue* (1 – 130). — *Medea's* nurse in a soliloquy sets forth

the situation and describes her mistress's passionate grief, which she fears may lead her to some desperate deed. The *παιδαγωγός* or slave-guardian of Medea's two children enters with his charge. He has heard a rumor that Medea and the children are banished by a royal edict. He is bidden to withhold this from Medea, and to keep the boys in close seclusion. Medea's voice is heard from within in outbursts of despair and rage.

*Parodus* (131 – 213). — The Chorus of Corinthian women, friends of Medea, approach to express their sympathy. Medea still speaks from within. The nurse, at the request of the chorus, enters the house to persuade her mistress to appear.

*First Episode* (214 – 409). — Medea comes forth in answer to the summons, in a calmer mood. She describes her forlorn condition feelingly, and exacts from the chorus a promise of silence in case she shall find means for requiting her enemies. Creon now enters to announce the decree of exile against her, on ground of threats uttered against the royal family. Medea feigns submission and innocence, and by humble entreaty obtains a respite of one day. No sooner is Creon's back turned than her mien changes, and she declares her intention of accomplishing her revenge within the allotted day, — by her secret arts, should any refuge open to her where she may afterwards seek safety, otherwise openly, dagger in hand. She will meanwhile wait to see whether such means of safety shall present themselves.

*First Stasimon* (410 – 445). — A choral ode.

*Second Episode* (446 – 626). — A spirited scene between Jason and Medea. The former comes to offer Medea money for her journey. To her passionate invective Jason replies with what sophistry he may. The calm impudence with which he proffers his wretched excuses for his conduct, and even feigns to act the magnanimous toward the woman he has wronged, reveal him as a heartless villain. His offers of assistance are scornfully rejected.

*Second Stasimon* (627 – 662). — A choral song.

*Third Episode* (663 – 823). — The hoped-for aid comes to Me-



dea in the person of Aegeus, who chances to be passing through Corinth on his way to consult Pittheus concerning an obscure oracle which has been given him at Delphi. He asks the cause of Medea's grief, and at her entreaty promises her protection if she will come to his court at Athens. When Aegeus is gone, Medea unfolds to the chorus the plan which she has dimly had in mind from the outset. She will send her children to the princess, Jason's bride, entreating her intercession in their behalf, and they shall take her as a present a poisoned robe, to put on which will be certain death. Having thus destroyed her rival, she will slay her own children as the bitterest retaliation she can inflict on Jason. In pursuance of this plan the nurse is despatched to summon Jason to a new interview.

*Third Stasimon* (824 – 865). — Choral ode.

*Fourth Episode* (866 – 975). — Jason reappears, and Medea in an altered tone pretends to have considered the matter anew, and to have laid aside her wrath. She asks forgiveness for her former language, expresses approval of his course, and begs for his good offices with his bride in behalf of the children. Jason, thrown completely off his guard, promises this, and the boys are sent with the gifts. Remarkable in this scene is the mixture of real and pretended feeling on Medea's part; in the midst of her feigned contrition she is melted to real tears at the thought of what awaits the children.

*Fourth Stasimon* (976 – 1001). — Choral ode.

*Fifth Episode* (1002 – 1250). — The *paedagogus*, returning with the children, announces that their mission has been successful, and that the boys are freed from the sentence of banishment. Medea bids him retire, and struggles long with herself; her heart fails her when she thinks of child-murder, but her evil passions nerve her to the deed. A pause ensues while they await further news, which is filled by a long anapaestic passage from the chorus. Then a messenger arrives in breathless haste to bring tidings of the catastrophe. The princess and Creon are killed by the poisoned robe. Their death is described at length.

Medea enters the house to slay her children.

*Fifth Stasimon* (1251 – 1292). — The chorus implores the gods to prevent the unnatural crime. The cries of the ill-fated children are heard from within.

*Exodus* (1293 – 1419). — Jason comes hoping to save his children from the hands of the exasperated Corinthians. Learning what has just happened, he is overwhelmed with rage and sorrow. As he is trying to force his way into the dwelling, Medea, with the bodies of the children, appears aloft in a chariot drawn by winged dragons, which has suddenly been sent to her aid by Helios. After some further parley, Medea announces that she will bury the bodies in the temple of Hera Acraea, and institute a solemn feast in their honor; then predicting Jason's death, she departs exulting in the completeness of her revenge.

§ 12. **Remarks.** — The interest all centres in Medea and her all-absorbing passion. Her love and hate are terrible in their strength. The poet lays stress on her being a foreigner; he means to depict human nature in its wilder phase, with passions unmitigated by the restraining influences of laws and Hellenic civilization. Aside from this vehemence there is no grandeur in the character, no moral elevation. Our sympathy can only partly go with her; we cannot, even from a Greek point of view, approve her revenge, nor regard it as a deed necessary under the circumstances; yet there is a vivid reality in it.

But how is it that the murder of his children is so terrible a punishment for Jason, worse than even his own death, which Medea is perfectly able to bring about? Certainly it is not that Jason loves the children so extraordinarily. For although 562 flg., 914 flg. he affects great interest in their welfare, still this does not prevent his acquiescing quite unconcernedly in the decree which banishes them, nor does it occur to him to attempt to have this decree revoked until Medea, 940, proposes it; his indifference to his children is subject of remark, 76, and Medea taunts him with it, 1396, 1401. He first shows real solicitude in their behalf after the death of his bride. The real force of the punishment consists then in leaving him without children to

perpetuate the family and to support him in old age, and is fully felt only in connection with the murder of his new wife, which cuts off all hope of future offspring. The bitterness of this lot to a Greek mind can be only imperfectly understood by us. To him the extinction of his race was a terrible misfortune. And that herein lies the weight of Medea's revenge is plain from 803 flg. and 1348. It is, however, to be noted that the poet ignores the obvious possibility that Jason may take yet a third wife and beget children. We might, indeed, understand the prediction of Jason's death, 1386, as intended to cut off this resource, if we supposed a speedy death to be meant; but that again is hardly consistent with the words *μένε καὶ γῆρας*, 1396. There is, therefore, plainly, this weak point in the construction of the piece.

The sending of the dragon-chariot is a sudden intervention on the part of the god, for otherwise Medea's excuse for her child-murder, that the boys must in any case die (1060, 1236), would not hold good, since there would be the possibility of her saving them as well as herself by flight. Aristotle blames this supernatural intervention at the close, but there is this to be said for it, that the winding-up of the action does not depend in any great measure on it, there being nothing to show that Medea herself could not escape without the chariot, as she has expected to do throughout. The most that the chariot does is to enable her to rescue and bury the bodies of the children, and to appear triumphant in the last colloquy with Jason, while it enhances, of course, the scenic effect of the close. With more justice one might find fault with the introduction of Aegeus, whose appearance just at the nick of time is purely accidental and not brought about by anything in the action itself. In fact this scene has little dramatic interest or import, and seems to be introduced mainly to bring on the stage an Athenian national hero.

It is somewhat surprising to find Medea at the end imposing a festival in atonement for her own crime on the Corinthians, whom she has just made her bitter enemies. We must suppose

that the authority of Hera is to effect this, who is the protectress of Medea as of all the Argonauts.\*

The character of Jason is that of complete selfishness, a selfishness which has overrun and stifled his natural good impulses. Creon is imperious but well-meaning. Aegeus is a mere lay-figure. The servants, on the other hand, are well conceived; the nurse, with her bustling anxiety, is particularly good.

§ 13. **Question of Double Recension.**—There seems to be some reason for thinking that the Medea has undergone a revision or alteration since its first production, and that we have not the play exactly in its original form. Porson, Boeckh, Hermann, and others have thought this; Elmsley, Matthiae, Pflugk, have denied it. The chief considerations in favor are: 1. The dittography (passage written in two ways), 723, 724, 729, 730 = 725–728; see note. Hermann thinks 777 = 778, 779, another such. 2. Words quoted from Medea, but not found in our play. Such are the words *ὁ θερμόβουλον σπλάγχνον*, said by the Schol. Aristoph. Ach. 119 to be *ἐν τῇ Μηδείᾳ Εὐριπίδου*. Aristophanes Pax 1012 quotes *ἐκ Μηδείας* (whose Medea he does not say) *ὀλόμαν, ὀλόμαν*, not in our Medea (yet see 97), but found Iph. T. 152. Lastly in Ennius' Medea is a translation of the verse *μισῶ σοφιστήν ὅστις οὐχ αὐτῷ σόφος*, which Cicero (Fam. 13, 15) quotes from Euripides. None of these reasons are cogent; the dittography may be due to an interpolator, the Scholiast and Aristophanes might have quoted carelessly, and the Ennian verse is probably a case of *contaminatio*. Other things that have been urged as evidence of a double recension are altogether trifling.

§ 14. **Relation to Neophron's Medea.**—Neophron, a contemporary of Euripides, wrote a Medea which, according to Aristotle and Dicaearchus (see the first Hypothesis), served as a model for Euripides; nay, they seem to think the latter guilty of plagiarism in appropriating Neophron's work.

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\* Boeckh fancied that in the first edition of the piece it was Hera herself who commanded this in person.

And in truth Neophron's play, as is plain from the extant fragments (see Appendix), was very like Euripides'. Aegeus was introduced, but as coming expressly to consult Medea about the oracle, not as on his way to Pittheus. There was likewise a scene corresponding to 1021 flg., in which Medea wavered between love for her children and desire for revenge. And at the end Jason's death was predicted by Medea as at 1386, not, however, the same manner of death, but suicide.

If, as is implied in the above statement, Neophron's play was written before Euripides', the credit for the design must be due in large measure to the former; Euripides must have followed him closely in the plot and construction of the piece, though that he borrowed his language is unlikely.\* But the peculiar power of the Euripidean play seems to have thrown its predecessor quite into the shade.

§ 15. **Scenery, etc.** — The scene represents the front of Medea's house, the orchestra an open space before it. The palace and Jason's house are supposed to be on the right, the side whence personages coming from the city or harbor regularly entered. At the end of the piece Medea and her dragon-car appear aloft, either upon the *μηχανή*, a contrivance for sudden apparitions situated at the top of the scene-wall, or on the *αἰώρημα*, a swinging machine suspended with cords from above.

The *Protagonist* had of course the part of Medea; the *Deuteragonist* probably those of the nurse, Jason, and the messenger; the *Tritagonist* those of the *paedagogus*, Creon, and Aegeus. The few lines assigned the boys (outcries from behind the scene) would also be spoken by the Deuteragonist and Tritagonist.

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\* Wecklein contends that the notice in question is wrong, and that Euripides' first Medea was older than Neophron's. But surely Aristotle and his pupil were in a situation to know from the original records to which play the priority belonged.

### III. ORIGIN AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE MYTH.

§ 16. Medea's adventures at Corinth seem at first view to be a sort of appendage or sequel to the story of the Argonautic expedition; in reality, however, they are a separate and independent legend which was only later brought into connection with the Argonauts. The Corinthian Medea is essentially a distinct personage from the Argonautic, although both are perhaps developments of the same germinal idea.

§ 17. **The Argonautic Story.**—This legend was at home among the Minyae of Iolcus and Orchomenus; it was their national epic in the earliest times, later modified and enlarged beyond its original boundaries by the poets, so that it became common Hellenic property. Aea, the land where the Golden Fleece is kept, is a sunny enchanted island in the distant sea. Homer thinks of it as somewhere in the west, but the Minyans, whose sea-outlook was an easterly one, must naturally have sought it in the east, and there it became at last fixed.

*The Homeric Poems* allude simply to the Argonaut myth as something well known, mention Jason as having passed the *πλαγκταί* or clashing rocks, and as having visited Lemnos, know Aeetes as son of Helios and sister of Circe.\* Medea is not spoken of.

*Hesiod's Theogony*, 960 flg., 992 flg. Here is the earliest mention of Medea. She is daughter of Aeetes and Idyia, helps Jason perform the *στονόεντες ἄεθλοι* laid on him by Pelias, returns with Jason to Iolcus, lives with him there and bears a son, who is reared by Chiron the centaur. Medea is here distinctly a goddess.

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\* Od. κ 137, μ 70; Il. η 468.

*Pindar* in the fourth Pythian ode gives a long and beautiful account of the sending of the expedition, and the adventures of the Argonauts, which closes with the return of Jason and Medea. Colchis is now for the first time fixed as the abode of Aeetes.

Of other poets' treatment of this theme we know next to nothing. Only in its latest phase, with many embellishments, it reappears in the *Argonautica* of *Apollonius*.

Medea's rôle in this myth is a subordinate one. She is but the enchantress who helps Jason obtain the fleece. Preller thinks that the old fable closed with the death of Pelias through her wiles.

§ 18. **The Corinthian Legend.** — That this is not a mere amplification of the Argonautic story, but a primitive local myth, is clear from this, that it was bound up with very ancient religious rites. The Corinthians had, we know, the custom of performing yearly propitiatory sacrifices to atone for the murder of Medea's children; this rite was celebrated in connection with the worship of Hera ἀκραία, a national divinity of Corinth. Their sepulchre was shown at Corinth in Pausanias' time. The tale was variously told, and its earlier forms are quite unlike the tragic story. The germ is everywhere the killing of the children, either by Medea herself or by the Corinthians.

Medea is a benefactress of Corinth; she is said to have delivered the city from a famine;\* she appears at first as queen; indeed, she was conceived of as divine.†

*Eumelus*, a Corinthian poet (about 750 B. C.) in his *Κορινθιακά* treated this subject at length.‡ According to him Medea was queen of Corinth. The sovereignty belonged to her, since the throne had formerly been assigned her father Aeetes by Helios; and

\* Schol. Med. 11; Schol. Pind. Ol. xiii. 52.

† Schol. Med. 10.

‡ Schol. Med. 10; Schol. Pind. Ol. xiii. 52; Pausan. ii. 3, 8.

the Corinthians, being without a ruler, had sent for her to Iolcus. Jason is joint ruler with her. As fast as her children are born she hides \* them in the temple of Hera,† hoping to make them immortal; failing in this she is discovered by Jason, who returns to Iolcus, and Medea departs also, leaving the throne to Sisyphus. Doubtless the poem further described the institution of the expiatory sacrifice.

*Parmeniscus*, an Alexandrine commentator, gives, we know not from what source, a different account.‡ The Corinthians, uneasy under Medea's rule, plotted to kill her and her children, seven boys and seven girls. The latter fled to the temple of Hera Acraea, and the Corinthians slew them at the altar. For this desecration they were visited with a pest which raged until, directed by an oracle, they instituted yearly expiatory rites, which were observed up to his (*Parmeniscus*') time. Seven boys and seven girls, offspring of noble families, were every year shut up apart in the sacred enclosure and there offered sacrifices.

A curious variation was that given in the *Ναυπάκτια ἔπη*,§ an obscure epic of the Hesiodean school, which narrated the Argonautic story. Here we learn that Jason (and of course Medea) went, not to Corinth, but to Corcyra, and that their son Mermerus was killed in hunting. Now as Corcyra was a Corinthian colony, this notice is interesting as showing that a legend very like the Corinthian was current there.

The early epic poet, *Creophylus*, author of the *Οἰχαλίας ἄλω*

\* *κατακρύπτειν*. Or *buries*? Perhaps somewhat as Demeter (Hymn. Hom. v. 239) buried (*κρύπτεσκε*) Celeus' infant in fire to make him immortal.

† The friendship of Hera for Medea is explained by Schol. Pind. Ol. xiii. 52, thus: Zeus was enamored of Medea, but she rejected his suit, and in return Hera promised to make her children immortal.

‡ Schol. Med. 273.

§ Paus. ii. 3, 7.



σῆς, had the story in a less primitive form.\* Medea is no longer queen; she kills the king Creon by drugs, and flees to Athens, leaving her children behind her on the altar of Hera, thinking that Jason will care for them. Here the relatives of Creon slay them, but give out that Medea has done the deed herself.

*Simonides* seems somewhere to have touched on this theme (Bergk, frag. 48). Medea and Jason he makes again rulers of Corinth, and expressly contradicts the older tale that Jason remained in Iolcus. Further than this we know nothing of his treatment.

Yet a step nearer the tragic form of the tale is that which *Pausanias*† gives as the current account in his time. Glauce the princess now appears; she meets her death through gifts brought her by Medea's sons, Mermerus and Pheres, who are stoned to death by the Corinthians. A pestilence then comes upon their children, to avert which the statue of Terror (Δεῖμα) is set up, and the regular sacrifices are instituted, at which they wear black and shave their children's heads. These solemnities were observed, he says, down to the destruction of Corinth by Mummius. A fountain was moreover shown, into which Glauce cast herself when in the agonies of death.

The tragedians were thought to have first hit upon the idea of making Medea kill her own children, and in this sense an absurd report‡ was current, which represented that Euripides was bribed by the Corinthians to lay the murder upon Medea. But we see traces of this same conception of Medea as the murderer in Creophylus' account and the mystical narrative of Eumelus, so that it evidently existed long before, side by side with the commoner story. Nor can we doubt that Jason's unfaithfulness and Medea's revenge were elements ingrafted on the legend before it came into the tragedians' hands.

\* Schol. Med. 273.

† ii. 3, 6.

‡ Schol. Med. 10.

The original elements of the Corinthian story are, we see, these : Medea is a wise and divine benefactress, who comes from afar and rules the state. She and her mortal offspring stand under the protection of Hera. The children are destroyed — how, was less clearly defined — and Medea departs as she came.

Jason is clearly no part of this tale, and perhaps the connection of Medea with Sisyphus, hinted at by the Scholiast to Pindar on Theopompus' authority, points to the older local tradition as to the paternity of the children. After the fusion of the Corinthian Medea with the Argonautic heroine, the poets were at great pains to connect the two legends, and Jason is introduced along with other new features.

There can be little doubt that Medea was originally worshipped as a goddess, and that the sacrifices were intended for her, but that she sank in time to the level of a mortal, while the original ceremonial was still maintained, transferred to the patronage of Hera.

§ 19. **Physical Significance of the Myth.** — Medea is the Moon, one of the many mythical impersonations of that luminary. The Moon, like the Sun, is all-wise because all-seeing, but to her belong especially occult wisdom and the mysterious arts of enchantment, such as flourish under the weird influences of her light. Hence her name *Μήδεια* (*μηδεσ-ια*), "wise woman," from *μηδός*. She is the Sun's offspring (originally, no doubt, his daughter), for the new moon seems to emanate from the sun. She comes from the far west, deserting her Sun-father's house on the western horizon, for the new moon is first seen in the west. Or she is thought of (doubtless later) as coming from the east, where the full moon rises. She abides for a time with increasing splendor; then wanes and disappears. Her children are probably stars, in particular the short-lived morning and evening stars.

This figure, which in Corinth took the shape of a preserver

and divine ruler,\* became in the Thessalian myth rather an enchantress, and nothing was easier than for her to be incorporated into the story of the Argonauts, who sail into the same enchanted regions of the east or west in search of the Golden Fleece, which is nothing but the ruddy clouds of sunrise or sunset.

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\* Wecklein thinks Medea a Phoenician goddess, and that her worship was supplanted at Corinth by that of Hera, when she was transformed into a priestess of Hera. This seems very uncertain. More reasonable is his idea that the shutting up of the children stood instead of former human sacrifices.

ΕΥΡΙΠΙΔΟΥ ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

## ΥΠΟΘΕΣΙΣ ΜΗΔΕΙΑΣ.

[ΔΙΚΑΙΑΡΧΟΥ.]

Ἰάσων εἰς Κόρινθον ἐλθὼν, ἐπαγόμενος καὶ Μήδειαν, ἐγγυᾶται καὶ τὴν τοῦ Κρέοντος τοῦ Κορινθίων βασιλέως θυγατέρα Γλαύκην πρὸς γάμον. μέλλουσα δὲ ἡ Μήδεια φυγαδεύεσθαι ὑπὸ Κρέοντος ἐκ τῆς Κορίνθου, παραιτησαμένη πρὸς μίαν ἡμέραν μέναι καὶ τυχοῦσα, μισθὸν τῆς χάριτος δῶρα διὰ τῶν παίδων πέμπει τῇ Γλαύκῃ ἐσθῆτα καὶ χρυσοῦν στέφανον, οἷς ἐκείνη χρησαμένη διαφθείρεται· καὶ ὁ Κρέων δὲ περιπλακείς τῇ θυγατρὶ ἀπώλετο. Μήδεια δὲ τοὺς ἐαυτῆς παῖδας ἀποκτείνασα ἐπὶ ἄρματος δρακόντων πτερωτῶν ἧ παρ' Ἡλίου ἔλαβεν ἔποχος γενομένη ἀποδιδράσκει εἰς Ἀθήνας κακεῖ Αἰγεί τῷ Πανδίωνος γαμεῖται. Φερεκύδης δὲ καὶ Σιμωνίδης φασὶν ὡς ἡ Μήδεια ἀνεψήσασα τὸν Ἰάσωνα νέον ποιήσειε. περὶ δὲ τοῦ πατρὸς αὐτοῦ Αἰσῶνος ὁ τοὺς Νόστους ποιήσας φησὶν οὕτως·

αὐτίκα δ' Αἰσῶνα θῆκε φίλον κόρον ἡβώνοντα,  
γῆρας ἀποξύσασα ἰδυίῃσι πραπίδεσσι,  
φάρμακα πόλλ' ἔψουσ' ἐπὶ χρυσελοισι λέβησιν.

Αἰσχύλος δ' ἐν ταῖς Διονύσου Τροφοῖς ἱστορεῖ ὅτι καὶ τὰς Διονύσου τροφούς μετὰ τῶν ἀνδρῶν αὐτῶν ἀνεψήσασα ἐνεοποιήσε. Στάφυλος δὲ φησὶ τὸν Ἰάσωνα τρόπον τινα ὑπὸ τῆς Μηδείας ἀναιρεθῆναι· ἐγκελεύσασθαι γὰρ αὐτὴν οὕτως ὑπὸ τῇ πρύμνῃ τῆς Ἀργοῦς κατακοιμηθῆναι, μελλούσης τῆς νεὸς διαλύεσθαι ὑπὸ τοῦ χρόνου· ἐπιπεσούσης γοῦν τῆς πρύμνης τῷ Ἰάσωνι τελευτῆσαι αὐτόν.

Τὸ δράμα δοκεῖ ὑποβαλέσθαι παρὰ Νεόφρονος διασκευάσας, ὡς Δικαίάρχος ἐν τῷ περὶ Ἑλλάδος βίου καὶ Ἀριστοτέλης ἐν ὑπομνήμασι. μέμφονται δὲ αὐτῷ τὸ μὴ πεφυλακέναι τὴν ὑπόκρισιν τῇ Μηδεῖᾳ, ἀλλὰ προπεσεῖν εἰς δάκρυα, ὅτε ἐπεβούλευσεν Ἰάσωνι καὶ τῇ γυναικί. ἐπαινεῖται δὲ ἡ εἰσβολὴ διὰ τὸ παθητικῶς ἄγαν ἔχειν καὶ ἡ ἐπεξεργασία 'μηδ' ἐν νάπαισι' καὶ τὰ ἐξῆς. ὅπερ ἀγνοήσας Τιμαχίδας τῷ ὑστέρω φησὶ πρώτῳ κεχρῆσθαι, ὡς Ὅμηρος·

εἵματά τ' ἀμφιέσασα θυώδεα καὶ λούσασα.

## ΑΡΙΣΤΟΦΑΝΟΥΣ ΓΡΑΜΜΑΤΙΚΟΥ ΥΠΟΘΕΣΙΣ.

Μήδεια διὰ τὴν πρὸς Ἰάσονα ἔχθραν τῷ ἐκείνῳ γεγαμηκέναι τὴν Κρέοντος θυγατέρα ἀπέκτεινε μὲν Γλαύκην καὶ Κρέοντα καὶ τοὺς ἰδίους υἱούς, ἐχωρίσθη δὲ Ἰάσονος Αἰγεί συνοικήσουσα. παρ' οὐδετέρῳ κεῖται ἡ μυθοποιία.

Ἡ μὲν σκηνὴ τοῦ δράματος ὑπόκειται ἐν Κορίνθῳ, ὃ δὲ χορὸς συνέστηκεν ἐκ γυναικῶν πολιτίδων. προλογίζει δὲ τροφὸς Μηδείας. ἐδιδάχθη ἐπὶ Πυθοδώρου ἄρχοντος Ὀλυμπιάδος πρ' ἔτει α'· πρῶτος Εὐφορίων, δεύτερος Σοφοκλῆς, τρίτος Εὐριπίδης Μηδεία, Φιλοκτήτῃ, Δίκτυι, Θερισταῖς σατύροις. οὐ σφύζεται.

## ΤΑ ΤΟΥ ΔΡΑΜΑΤΟΣ ΠΡΟΣΩΠΑ.

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1 . . . ΤΡΟΦΟΣ.  
2 . . . ΠΑΙΔΑΓΩΓΟΣ.  
3 . . . ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.  
ΧΟΡΟΣ ΓΥΝΑΙΚΩΝ.  
4 . . . ΚΡΕΩΝ.  
5 . . . ΙΑΣΩΝ.  
6 . . . ΑΙΓΕΤΣ.  
7 . . . ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.  
ΠΑΙΔΕΣ ΜΗΔΕΙΑΣ.

# ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

ΤΡΟΦΟΣ.

ΕΙΘ' ὦφελ' Ἀργούσ μὴ διαπτάσθαι σκάφος<sup>ἡμε</sup>  
Κόλχων ἐς αἶαν<sup>α</sup> κυανέας Συμπληγάδας,  
μηδ' ἐν νάπαισι Πηλίου πεσεῖν ποτε  
τμηθεῖσα πεύκη, μηδ' ἐρετμῶσαι χέρας  
ἀνδρῶν ἀρίστων, οἳ τὸ πάγχρυσον δέρος  
Πελία μετήλθον. οὐ γὰρ ἂν δέσποιν' ἐμὴ  
Μήδεια πύργους γῆς ἔπλευσ' Ἰωλκίας  
ἔρωτι θυμὸν ἐκπλαγείῃσ' Ἰάσονος,  
οὐδ' ἂν κτανεῖν πείσασα Πελιάδας κόρας  
πατέρα κατώκει τήνδε γῆν, Κορινθίαν  
ξὺν ἀνδρὶ καὶ τέκνοισιν, ἀνδάνουσα μὲν  
φυγῇ πολιτῶν ὧν ἀφίκετο χθόνα  
αὐτὴ τε πάντα ξυμφέρουσ' Ἰάσονι,  
ἥπερ μεγίστη γίγνεται σωτηρία,  
ὅταν γυνὴ πρὸς ἄνδρα μὴ διχοστατῇ.  
νῦν δ' ἐχθρὰ πάντα καὶ νοσεῖ τὰ φίλτατα.  
προδοὺς γὰρ αὐτοῦ τέκνα δεσπότην τ' ἐμὴν  
γάμοις Ἰάσων βασιλικοῖς εὐνάζεται,  
γῆμας Κρέοντος παῖδ', ὃς αἰσυμνᾷ χθονός.

5

10

15



Μήδεια δ' ἡ δύστηνος ἡτιμασμένη 20  
 βοᾷ μὲν ὄρκους, ἀνακαλεῖ δὲ δεξιᾶς  
 πίστιν μεγίστην, καὶ θεοὺς μαρτύρεται  
 οἷας ἀμοιβῆς ἐξ Ἰάσονος κυρεῖ.  
 κεῖται δ' ἄσιτος, σῶμ' ὑφέϊσ' ἀλγηδόσι,  
 τὸν πάντα συντήκουσα δακρύοις χρόνον, 25  
 ἐπεὶ πρὸς ἀνδρὸς ἦσθετ' ἡδίκημένη,  
 οὔτ' ὄμμ' ἐπαίρουσ' οὔτ' ἀπαλλάσσουσα γῆς  
 πρόσωπον· ὥς δὲ πέτρος ἢ θαλάσσιος  
 κλύδων ἀκούει νουθετουμένη φίλων·  
 ἦν μή ποτε στρέψασα πάλλευκον δέρην 30  
 αὐτὴ πρὸς αὐτὴν πατέρ' ἀποιμώζῃ φίλον  
 καὶ γαῖαν οἴκους θ', οὓς προδοῦσ' ἀφίκετο  
 μετ' ἀνδρὸς ὃς σφε νῦν ἀτιμάσας ἔχει.  
 ἔγνωκε δ' ἡ τάλαινα συμφορᾶς ὑπο  
 οἶον πατρώας μὴ ἀπολείπεσθαι χθονός. 35  
 στυγεῖ δὲ παῖδας οὐδ' ὀρώσ' εὐφραίνεται.  
 δέδοικα δ' αὐτὴν μή τι βουλεύσῃ νέον·  
 βαρεῖα γὰρ φρήν, οὐδ' ἀνέξεται κακῶς  
 πάσχουσ'· ἐγὼ δα τήνδε, δειμαίνω τέ νιν·  
 [μὴ θηκτὸν ὦση φάσγανον δι' ἥπατος, 40  
 σιγῇ δόμους εἰσβάσ', ἵν' ἔστρωται λέχος,  
 ἢ καὶ τύραννον τόν τε γήμαντα κτάνῃ  
 κᾶπειτα μείζω συμφορὰν λάβῃ τινά·]  
 δεινὴ γάρ· οὔτοι ῥαδίως γε συμβαλὼν  
 ἔχθραν τις αὐτῇ καλλίνικον οἴσεται. 45  
 ἀλλ' οἶδε παῖδες ἐκ τρόχων πεπαυμένοι  
 στείχουσι, μητρὸς οὐδὲν ἐννοούμενοι  
 κακῶν· νέα γὰρ φροντὶς οὐκ ἀλγείν φιλεῖ.

## ΠΑΙΔΑΓΩΓΟΣ.

παλαιὸν οἴκων <sup>possessions</sup> κτήμα <sup>might</sup> δεσποίνης ἐμῆς,  
<sup>why, before</sup> τί πρὸς πύλαισι <sup>silence</sup> τήνδ' ἄγουσ' ἐρημίαν  
 ἔστηκας, αὐτὴ <sup>bewailing</sup> θρεομένη <sup>misfortune</sup> σαυτῇ κακὰ;  
 πῶς σοῦ <sup>without</sup> μὴ Μήδεια λείπεσθαι θέλει;

50

## ΤΡΟΦΟΣ.

τέκνων <sup>affluent</sup> ὅπαδ' <sup>old man</sup> πρέσβυ τῶν Ἰάσονος,  
<sup>faithful</sup> χρηστοῖσι <sup>misfortunes</sup> δούλοις <sup>lay hold on</sup> συμφορὰ τὰ δεσποτῶν  
<sup>and calamity</sup> κακῶς <sup>lay hold on</sup> πιτνοντα καὶ φρενῶν ἀνθάπτεται.  
 ἐγὼ γὰρ εἰς τοῦτ' <sup>height of grief</sup> ἐκβέβηκ' ἀλγηδόνος,  
 ὥσθ' <sup>desire</sup> ἡμέρος <sup>come at</sup> μ' ὑπῆλθε <sup>lay hold on</sup> γῆ τε <sup>misfortune</sup> κοῦρανῶ  
 λέξαι <sup>lay hold on</sup> μολούση <sup>lay hold on</sup> δεῦρο <sup>lay hold on</sup> δεσποίνης <sup>lay hold on</sup> τύχης.

55

## ΠΑΙΔΑΓΩΓΟΣ.

οὐπω γὰρ ἡ <sup>wretched</sup> ταλαινα <sup>misery</sup> παύεται γόων;

## ΤΡΟΦΟΣ.

<sup>I say</sup> ζῆλῳ σ'· ἐν ἀρχῇ <sup>wife</sup> πῆμα <sup>wife</sup> κοῦδέπω μεσοῖ.

60

## ΠΑΙΔΑΓΩΓΟΣ.

ὦ μῶρος, εἰ <sup>misery</sup> χρὴ <sup>misery</sup> δεσπότης <sup>to say</sup> εἰπεῖν <sup>to say</sup> τόδε·  
<sup>misery</sup> ὥς οὐδὲν <sup>misery</sup> οἶδε <sup>later</sup> τῶν <sup>later</sup> νεωτέρων <sup>later</sup> κακῶν.

## ΤΡΟΦΟΣ.

τί δ' ἔστιν, ὦ γεραιέ; μὴ φθόνει φράσαι.

## ΠΑΙΔΑΓΩΓΟΣ.

οὐδέν· <sup>I have repented</sup> μετέγνων <sup>I have repented</sup> καὶ τὰ πρόσθ' εἰρημένα.

## ΤΡΟΦΟΣ.

μή, πρὸς γενεῖου, κρύπτε σύνδουλον σέθεν  
σιγὴν γάρ, εἰ χρή, τῶνδε θήσομαι πέρι.

## ΠΑΙΔΑΓΩΓΟΣ.

ἤκουσά του λέγοντος, οὐ δοκῶν κλύειν,  
πессοὺς προσελθὼν ἔνθα δὴ παλαίτατοι  
θάσσουσι, σέμνον ἀμφὶ Πειρήνης ὕδωρ,  
ὥς τούσδε παῖδας γῆς ἑλᾶν Κορινθίας  
σὺν μητρὶ μέλλοι τῆσδε κοῖρανός χθονὸς  
Κρέων. ὁ μέντοι μῦθος εἰ σαφὴς ὁδε  
οὐκ οἶδα· βουλοίμην δ' ἂν οὐκ εἶναι τόδε.

## ΤΡΟΦΟΣ.

καὶ ταῦτ' Ἰάσων παῖδας ἐξανέξεται  
πάσχοντας, εἰ καὶ μητρὶ διαφορὰν ἔχει;

## ΠΑΙΔΑΓΩΓΟΣ.

παλαιὰ καινῶν λείπεται κηδευματων,  
οὐκ ἔστ' ἐκεῖνος τοῖσδε δώμασιν φίλος.

## ΤΡΟΦΟΣ.

ἀπωλόμεσθ' ἄρ', εἰ κακὸν προσοίσομεν  
νέον παλαιῷ, πρὶν τόδ' ἐξηντληκέναι.

## ΠΑΙΔΑΓΩΓΟΣ.

ἀτὰρ σύ γ', οὐ γὰρ καιρὸς εἰδέναι τόδε  
δέσποιναν, ἡσύχαζε καὶ σίγα λόγον.

## ΤΡΟΦΟΣ.

ὦ τέκν', ἀκούεθ' οἷος εἰς ὑμᾶς πατήρ ;  
 οἴοιτο μὲν μή· δεσπότης γάρ ἐστ' ἐμός·  
 ἀτὰρ κακός γ' ὢν εἰς φίλους ἀλίσκεται.

## ΠΑΙΔΑΓΩΓΟΣ.

τίς δ' οὐχὶ θνητῶν ; ἄρτι γινώσκεις τόδε, 85  
 ὥς πᾶς τις αὐτὸν τοῦ πέλας μᾶλλον φιλεῖ,  
 οἱ μὲν δικαίως, οἱ δὲ καὶ κέρδους χάριν,  
 εἰ τούσδε γ' εὐνῆς οὐνεκ' οὐ στέργει πατήρ ;

## ΤΡΟΦΟΣ.

ἴτ', εὖ γὰρ ἔσται, δωμάτων ἔσω, τέκνα.  
 σὺ δ' ὥς μάλιστα τούσδ' ἐρημώσας ἔχε 90  
 καὶ μὴ πέλαζε μητρὶ δυσθυμουμένη.  
 ἤδη γὰρ εἶδον ὄμμα νιν ταυρουμένην  
 τοῖσδ' ὥς τι δράσειούσαν· οὐδὲ παύσεται  
 χόλου, σάφ' οἶδα, πρὶν κατασκῆψαί τινα.  
 ἐχθρούς γε μέντοι, μὴ φίλους, δρασεῖέ τι. 95

## ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

ἰώ,  
 δύστανος ἐγὼ μελέα τε πόνων,  
 ἰώ μοί μοι, πῶς ἂν ὀλοίμαν ;

## ΤΡΟΦΟΣ.

τόδ' ἐκείνο, φίλοι παῖδες· μήτηρ  
 κινεῖ κραδίαν, κινεῖ δὲ χόλον.  
 σπεύδετε θᾶσσον δώματος εἴσω,

καὶ μὴ <sup>παρ</sup>πελάσῃτ' ὄμματος ἐγγύς,  
 μηδὲ προσέλθῃτ', ἀλλὰ φυλάσσεσθ' <sup>ἀπὸ τοῦ αἵματος</sup>  
 ἄγριον ἦθος στυγεράν τε φύσιν <sup>καὶ</sup>  
 φρενὸς αὐθάδους. <sup>ἐκείνη</sup>

ἴτε νῦν, χωρεῖθ' ὥς τάχος εἴσω. 105

δῆλον δ' ἀρχῆς ἐξαιρόμενον  
 νέφος οἰμωγῆς ὥς τάχ' ἀνάξει,  
 μείζονι θυμῷ· τί ποτ' ἐργάσεται  
 μεγαλόσπλαγχνος δυσκαταπαυστος  
 ψυχὴ δὴ χθείσα κακοῖσιν; 110

#### ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

αἰαῖ.

ἔπαθον τλάμων ἔπαθον μεγάλων  
 ἄξι' ὀδυρμῶν· ὦ κατάρατοι  
 παῖδες ὅλοισθε στυγερᾶς ματρὸς  
 σὺν πατρὶ καὶ πᾶς δόμος ἔρροι.

#### ΤΡΟΦΟΣ.

ἰὼ μοί μοι. ἰὼ τλήμων. 115  
 τί δέ σοι παῖδες πατρὸς ἀμπλακίας  
 μετέχουσι; τί τούσδ' ἐχθεῖς; οἴμοι,  
 τέκνα, μή τί πάθῃθ' ὥς ὑπεραλγῶ.  
 δεινὰ τυράννων λήματα καὶ πῶς  
 ὀλίγ' ἀρχόμενοι πολλὰ κρατοῦντες 120  
 χαλεπῶς ὀργὰς μεταβάλλουσιν.  
 τὸ γὰρ εἰθίσθαι ζῆν ἐπ' ἰσοῖσιν  
 κρεῖσσον· ἐμοὶ γοῦν, εἰ μὴ μέγας,  
 ὀχυρῶς γ' εἴη καταγηράσκειν.

τῶν γὰρ μετρίων πρῶτα μὲν εἰπεῖν  
 τοῦνομα νικά, χρῆσθαί τε μακρῶ  
 λῶστα βροτοῖσιν· τὰ δ' ὑπερβάλλοντ'  
 οὐδένα καιρὸν δύναται θνητοῖς,  
 μείζους δ' ἄτας, ὅταν ὀργισθῇ  
 δαίμων, οἴκῳ ἀπέδωκεν.

125

130

## ΧΟΡΟΣ.

Ἰκέσθαι ἔκλυον φωνάν, ἔκλυον δὲ βοᾶν  
 τᾶς δυστάνου  
 Κολχίδος, οὐδέ πω ἥπιος· ἀλλὰ, γέ-  
 ραιά, λέξον· ἐπ' ἀμφιπύλου γὰρ ἔ-  
 σω μελᾶθρου γοόν ἔκλυον· οὐδέ συν-  
 ἥδομαι, ὦ γύναι, ἄλγεσι δώματος,  
 ἐπεὶ μοι φίλον κέκρανται!

προφδ.

135

## ΤΡΟΦΟΣ.

οὐκ εἰσὶ δομοὶ· φροῦδα τάδ' ἦδη.  
 τὸν μὲν γὰρ ἔχει λέκτρα τυράννων,  
 ἡ δ' ἐν θαλαμοῖς τήκει βιοτὴν  
 δέσποινα, φίλων οὐδενὸς οὐδὲν  
 παραθαλπομένη φρένα μύθοις.

140

## ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

αἰαῖ·  
 διά μου κεφαλᾶς φλόξ οὐρανία  
 βαίῃ· τί δέ μοι ζῆν ἔτι κέρδος;  
 φεῦ φεῦ· θανάτῳ καταλυσσάμαι  
 βιοτὴν στυγερὰν προλιπούσα.

145

— — — — — ΧΟΡΟΣ,  
 αἶες, ὦ Ζεῦ καὶ γὰ καὶ φῶς, στρ.  
 ἀχάν οἶάν ᾧ δῦστανός  
 μέλπει νύμφα; 150  
 τίς σοί ποτε τὰς ἀπλάτου  
 κοίτας ἔρος, ὦ ματαῖα,  
 σπεύσει θανάτου τελευτάν;  
 μηδὲν τόδε λίσσου. *may I not*  
 εἰ δὲ σὸς πόσις 155  
 καὶνὰ λέχη σεβίζει, *will I*  
 κείνῳ τόδε μὴ χαράσσου.  
 Ζεὺς σοι τόδε συνδικήσει. *will not*  
 μὴ λίαν τάκου  
 δυρομένα σὸν εὐνέταν.

## ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

ὦ μεγάλα Θέμι καὶ πότνι' Ἄρτεμι, 160  
 λεύσσεθ' ᾧ πάσχω, μεγάλοις ὄρκοις  
 ἐνδησαμένα τὸν κατάρατον  
 πόσιν; ὃν ποτ' ἐγὼ νύμφαν τ' ἐσίδοιμ'  
 αὐτοῖς μελάθροις διακναιομένους,  
 οἳ γ' ἐμὲ πρόσθεν τολμῶσ' ἀδικεῖν. 165  
 ὦ πάτερ, ὦ πόλις, ὧν ἀπενάσθην  
 αἰσchrῶς τὸν ἐμὸν κτείνασα κάσιν. *will not*

## ΤΡΟΦΟΣ.

κλύεθ' οἷα λέγει καπιβοᾶται  
 Θέμιν εὐκταίαν Ζῆνά θ', ὃς ὄρκων

θνητοῖς ταμίας νενόμισται;  
 οὐκ ἔστιν ὅπως ἐν τινι μικρῷ  
 δέσποινα χόλον καταπαύσει.

170

## ΧΟΡΟΣ.

πῶς ἂν ἐς ὄψιν τὰν ἀμετέραν  
 ἔλθοι μύθων τ' αὐδαθέντων  
 δέξαιτ' ὁμφάν,  
 εἴ πως βαρύνθυμον ὄργαν  
 καὶ λήμα φρενῶν μέθειη;  
 μήτοι τό γ' ἐμὸν πρόθυμον  
 φίλοισιν ἀπέστω.

ἀντ.

175

ἀλλὰ βασά γιν  
 δεῦρο πορευσον οἴκων  
 ἔξω, φίλα καὶ τάδ' αὐδα, = "say to"  
 σπενυσσασα πρίν τι κακῶσαι  
 τοὺς ἔσω· πένθος  
 γὰρ μεγάλως τόδ' ὀρμάται.

180

## ΤΡΟΦΟΣ.

δράσω τάδ'· ἀτὰρ φόβος εἰ πείσω  
 δέσποιναν ἐμήν·

185

μόχθου δὲ χάριν τήνδ' ἐπιδώσω.  
 καίτοι τὸ κάδος δέργμα λεαίνης  
 ἀποταυροῦται δμωσίν, ὅταν τις  
 μῦθον προφέρων πέλας ὀρμηθῇ.  
 σκαιοὺς δὲ λέγων κούδεν τι σοφοὺς  
 τοὺς προσθε βροτοὺς οὐκ ἂν ἀμάρτοις,  
 οἵτινες ὕμνους ἐπὶ μὲν θαλίαις

190



ἐπὶ τ' εἰλαπίναις καὶ παρὰ δείπνοις  
 εὗροντο βίου τερπνὰς ἀκοάς·  
 στυγίους δὲ βροτῶν οὐδείς λύπας  
 εὗρετο μούσῃ καὶ πολυχόρδοις  
 ᾠδαῖς παύειν, ἐξ ὧν θάνατοι  
 δειναί τε τύχαι σφάλλουσι δόμους.  
 καίτοι τάδε μὲν κέρδος ἀκείσθαι  
 μολπαῖσι βροτούς· ἵνα δ' εὐδείπνοι  
 δαῖτες, τί μᾶτην τείνουσι βοήν;  
 τὸ παρὸν γὰρ ἔχει τέρψιν ἀφ' αὐτοῦ  
 δαιτὸς πλήρωμα βροτοῖσιν.

195

200

## ΧΟΡΟΣ.

ἰαχὰν αἶον πολύστονον  
 γόων, λιγυρὰ δ' ἄχρα μογερά  
 βοᾷ τὸν ἐν λέχει προδόταν κακόννυμφον·  
 θεοκλυτεῖ δ' ἄδικα παθοῦσα  
 τὰν Ζηνὸς ὀρκίαν Θέμιν, ἃ νιν ἔβασεν  
 Ἑλλάδ' ἐς ἀντίπορον  
 δι' ἄλα νύχιον ἐφ' ἄλμυρὰν  
 πόντου κλῆδ' ἀπέραντον.

ἐπηδ.

205

210

## ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

Κορίνθιαι γυναῖκες, ἐξῆλθον δόμων,  
 μή μοί τι μέμφησθ'· οἶδα γὰρ πολλοὺς βροτῶν  
 σεμνοὺς γεγῶτας, τοὺς μὲν ὀμμάτων ἄπο,  
 τοὺς δ' ἐν θυραίοις· οἱ δ' ἀφ' ἡσυχίου ποδὸς  
 δύσκλειαν ἐκτήσαντο καὶ ῥαθυμίαν.  
 δίκη γὰρ οὐκ ἔνεστ' ἐν ὀφθαλμοῖς βροτῶν,

215

<sup>disposition</sup>  
 ὅστις πρὶν ἀνδρὸς σπλάγχχνον ἐκμαθεῖν σαφῶς 220  
<sup>hates</sup> <sup>desire</sup>  
 στυγεῖ δέδορκώς, οὐδὲν ἡδικημένος  
<sup>hates</sup> <sup>desire</sup> <sup>hates</sup> <sup>desire</sup>  
 χρὴ δὲ ξένον μὲν κάρτα προσχωρεῖν πόλει·  
 οὐδ' ἀστὸν ἦνεσ' ὅστις αὐθάδης γεγὼς  
 πικρὸς πολίταις ἐστὶν ἀμαθίας ὑπο.  
 ἐμοὶ δ' αἰλπτον πρᾶγμα προσπεσὸν τόδε 225  
 ψυχὴν διέφθαρκ'· οἰχομαι δὲ καὶ βίου  
 χάριν μεθεῖσα κατθανεῖν χρήζω, φίλαι.  
 ἐν ᾧ γὰρ ἦν μοι πάντα, γιγνώσκεις καλῶς,  
 κάκιστος ἀνδρῶν ἐκβέβηχ' οὐμὸς πόσις.  
 πάντων δ' ὅς' ἔστ' ἐμψυχα καὶ γνώμην ἔχει 230  
 γυναικὲς ἐσμεν ἀθλιώτατον φυτὸν·  
 ἅς πρῶτα μὲν δεῖ χρημάτων ὑπερβολῇ  
 πόσις πρίασθαι δεσπότην τε σώματος  
 λαβεῖν· κακοῦ γὰρ τοῦτ' ἔτ' ἀλγίον κακόν· (·)  
 καὶ τῷδ' ἀγὼν μέγιστος, ἢ κακὸν λαβεῖν 235  
 ἢ χρηστόν. οὐ γὰρ εὐκλεεῖς ἀπαλλαγαὶ  
 γυναιξίν, οὐδ' οἷόν τ' ἀνῆνασθαι πόσιν.  
 εἰς καινὰ δ' ἠθῇ καὶ νόμους ἀφιγμένῃν  
 δεῖ μάντιν εἶναι, μὴ μαθοῦσαν οἰκοθεν,  
 ὅτῳ μάλιστα χρήσεται συνευνέτῃ. 240  
 καὶ μὲν τάδ' ἡμῖν ἐκπονδούμεναισιν εὖ  
 πόσις ξυνοικῇ μὴ βία φέρων ζυγόν,  
 ζηλωτὸς αἰῶν· εἰ δὲ μή, θανεῖν χρεών.  
 ἀνὴρ δ' ὅταν τοῖς ἐνδον ἄχθηται ξυνών,  
 ἔξω μολῶν ἔπαυσε καρδίαν ἄσης, 245  
 ἢ πρὸς φίλον τιν' ἢ πρὸς ἡλικας τραπείς·  
 ἡμῖν δ' ἀνάγκη πρὸς μίαν ψυχὴν βλέπειν.  
 λέγουσι δ' ἡμᾶς ὡς ἀκίνδυνον βίον

ζῶμεν κατ' οἴκους, οἱ δὲ μάρνανται δορί·  
 κακῶς φρονεῖντες· ὥς τρίς ἂν παρ' ἀσπίδα 250  
 στῆναι θέλοιμ' ἂν μᾶλλον ἢ τεκεῖν ἅπαξ.  
 ἀλλ' οὐ γὰρ αὐτὸς πρὸς σέ καμ' ἤκει λόγος·  
 σοὶ μὲν πόλις θ' ἦδ' ἐστὶ καὶ πατρὸς δόμοι  
 βίου τ' ὄνησις καὶ φίλων συνουσία,  
 ἐγὼ δ' ἔρημος ἀπολις οὖσ' ὑβρίζομαι 255  
 πρὸς ἀνδρός, ἐκ γῆς βαρβάρου λελησμένη  
 οὐ μητέρ', οὐκ ἀδελφόν, οὐχὶ συγγενῇ  
 μεθορμίσασθαι τῆσδ' ἔχουσα συμφοράς.  
 τοσόνδε δ' ἐκ σου τυγχάνειν βουλήσομαι,  
 ἢν μοι πόρος τις μηχανή τ' ἐξευρεθῇ 260  
 πόσιν δίκηκ τῶνδ' ἀντιτίσασθαι κακῶν  
 τὸν δόντα τ' αὐτῷ θυγατέρ' ἢ τ' ἐγγήματο,  
 σιγᾶν. γυνὴ γὰρ ἄλλα μὲν φόβου πλέα,  
 κακὴ δ' ἐς ἀλκὴν καὶ σίδηρον εἰσορᾶν·  
 ὅταν δ' ἐς εὐνὴν ἡδίκημένη κυρῇ, 265  
 οὐκ ἔστιν ἄλλη φρὴν μιαίφονωτέρα.

## ΧΟΡΟΣ.

δράσω τάδ'· ἐνδίκως γὰρ ἐκτίσει πόσιν,  
 Μήδεια. πένθειν δ' οὐ σε θαυμάζω τύχας.  
 ὁρῶ δὲ καὶ Κρέοντα, τῆσδ' ἀνακτα γῆς,  
 στείχοντα, καινῶν ἄγγελον βουλευμάτων. 270

## ΚΡΕΩΝ.

σέ τὴν σκυθρωπὸν καὶ πόσει θυμούμενην,  
 Μήδειαν, εἶπον τῆσδε γῆς ἔξω περᾶν  
 φυγάδα, λαβοῦσαν δισσὰ σὺν σαυτῇ τέκνα,

καὶ μή τι μέλλειν· ὥς ἐγὼ βραβεύς λόγου  
 τοῦδ' εἰμί, κοῦκ ἄπειμι πρὸς δόμους πάλιν 275  
 πρὶν ἂν σε γαίας τερμόνων ἐξω βάλω.

## ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

αἰαῖ· πανώλης ἢ ταλαῖν' ἀπόλλυμαι.  
 ἐχθροὶ γὰρ ἐξίασι πάντα δὴ καλῶν,  
 κοῦκ ἔστιν ἄτης εὐπρόσοιστος ἔκβασις.  
 ἐρησόμεαι δὲ καὶ κακῶς πάσχουσ' ὅμως, 280  
 τίνος μ' ἑκατι γῆς ἀποστέλλεις, Κρέον;

## ΚΡΕΩΝ.

δέδοικά σ', οὐδὲν δεῖ παραμπέχειν λόγους,  
 μή μοί τι δράσης παῖδ' ἀνηκεστον κακόν.  
 συμβάλλεται δὲ πολλὰ τρυῖδε δείματός·  
 σοφὴ πέφυκας καὶ κακῶν πολλῶν ἰδρὶς, 285  
 λυπεῖ δὲ λέκτρων ἀνδρὸς ἐστερημένη.  
 κλύω δ' ἀπειλεῖν σ', ὥς ἀπαγγέλλουσί μοι,  
 τὸν δόντα καὶ γήμαντα καὶ γαμουμένην  
 δράσειν τι. ταῦτ' οὖν πρὶν παθεῖν φυλάξομαι.  
 κρεῖσσον δέ μοι νῦν πρὸς σ' ἀπεχθέσθαι, γύναι, 290  
 ἢ μαλθακισθένθ' ὕστερον μέγα στένειν.

## ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

φεῦ φεῦ·  
 οὐ νῦν με πρῶτον, ἀλλὰ πολλάκις, Κρέον,  
 ἐβλαψε δοξα μεγάλα τ' εἰργάσται κακά.  
 χρὴ δ' οὐποθ' ὅστις ἀρτίφρων πέφυκ' ἀνὴρ  
 παῖδας περισσῶς ἐκδιδάσκεσθαι σοφούς· 295  
 χωρὶς γὰρ ἄλλης ἥς ἔχουσιν ἀργίας.

φθόνον πρὸς ἀστῶν ἀλφάνουσι δυσμενῇ.  
 σκαιοῖσι μὲν γὰρ καινὰ προσφέρων σοφὰ  
 δόξεις ἄχρεῖος κοῦ σοφὸς πεφυκέναι.  
 τῶν δ' αὖ δοκούντων εἰδέναι τι ποικίλον 300  
 κρείσσων νομισθεὶς λυπρὸς ἐν πόλει φανεῖ.  
 ἐγὼ δὲ καὐτῇ τῇσδε κοινωνῶ τύχης.  
 σοφὴ γὰρ οὕσα τοῖς μὲν εἰμ' ἐπίφθονος,  
 [τοῖς δ' ἡσυχαία, τοῖς δὲ θατέρου τρόπου,]  
 τοῖς δ' αὖ προσάντης· εἰμὶ δ' οὐκ ἄγαν σοφῇ. 305  
 σὺ δ' αὖ φοβεῖ με μή τι πλήμμελές παθῇς·  
 οὐχ ὧδ' ἔχει μοι, μὴ τρέσῃς ἡμᾶς, Κρέον,  
 ὥστ' εἰς τυράννους ἄνδρας ἐξαμάρτανεῖν.  
 τί γὰρ σύ μ' ἡδίκηκας; ἐξέδου κόρην  
 ὅτῳ σε θυμὸς ἤγεν. ἀλλ' ἐμὸν πόσιν 310  
 μισῶ· σὺ δ', οἶμαι, σωφρονῶν ἔδρας τάδε.  
 καὶ νῦν τὸ μὲν σὸν οὐ φθονῶ καλῶς ἔχειν.  
 νυμφεύετ', εὖ πράσσοιτε· τήνδε δὲ χθόνα  
 ἑατέ μ' οἰκεῖν. καὶ γὰρ ἡδικημένοι  
 σιγησόμεσθα, κρεισσόνων νικώμενοι. 315

## ΚΡΕΩΝ.

λέγεις ἀκοῦσαι μαλθάκ', ἀλλ' εἴσω φρενῶν  
 ὀρρωδία μοι μή τι βουλευῆς κακόν·  
 τοσῶδε δ' ἡσσον ἢ πάρος πέποιθά σοι·  
 γυνὴ γὰρ ὀξύθυμος, ὥς δ' αὐτῶς ἀνὴρ,  
 ῥάων φυλάσσειν ἢ σίῳπηλὸς σοφός. 320  
 ἀλλ' ἔξιθ' ὥς τάχιστα, μὴ λόγους λέγε·  
 ὥς ταῦτ' ἄραρε, κοῦκ ἔχεις τέχνην ὅπως  
 μενεῖς παρ' ἡμῖν, οὕσα δυσμενῆς ἐμοί.

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

μή, πρὸς σε γονάτων τῆς τε νεογάμου κόρης.

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

λόγους ἀναλοῖς· οὐ γὰρ ἂν πείσαις ποτέ.

325

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

ἀλλ' ἐξελάς με κοῦδέν αἰδέσει λιτὰς;

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

φιλῶ γὰρ οὐ σὲ μᾶλλον ἢ δόμους ἐμούς.

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

ὦ πατρίς, ὥς σου κάρτα νῦν μνείαν ἔχω.

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

πλὴν γὰρ τέκνων ἔμοιγε φίλτατον πολύ.

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

φεῦ φεῦ· βροτοῖς ἔρωτες ὥς κακὸν μέγα.

330

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

ὅπως ἂν, οἶμαι, καὶ παραστῶσιν τύχαι.

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

Ζεῦ, μὴ λάθοι σε τῶνδ' ὅς αἷτιος κακῶν.

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

ἔρπ', ὦ μάταία, καὶ μὲν ἀπάλλαξον πόνων.

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

πονοῦμεν ἡμεῖς κοῦ πόνων κεχρήμεθα.

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

τάχ' ἐξ ὀπαδῶν χειρὸς ὠσθήσει βία.

335

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

μὴ δῆτα τοῦτό γ', ἀλλὰ σ' αἰτοῦμαι, Κρέον —

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

ὄχλον παρέξεις, ὥς ἔοικας, ὦ γύναι.

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

φευξοῦμεθ'· οὐ τοῦθ' ἰκέτευσα σοῦ τυχεῖν.

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

τί δ' αὖ βιάζει κοῦκ ἀπαλλάσσει χθονός;

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

μίαν με μείναι τήνδ' ἕασον ἡμέραν  
καὶ ξυμπεράναι φρόντιδ' ἢ φευξοῦμεθα,  
παισὶν τ' ἀφορμὴν τοῖς ἐμοῖς, ἐπεὶ πατὴρ  
οὐδὲν προτιμᾷ μηχανήσασθαι τέκνοις.

340

οἴκτειρε δ' αὐτούς· καὶ σύ τοι παίδων πατὴρ  
πέφυκας· εἰκὸς δ' ἐστὶν εὐνοιάν σ' ἔχειν.

345

τοῦμοῦ γὰρ οὐ μοι φροντίς, εἰ φευξοῦμεθα,  
κείνους δὲ κλαίω συμφορᾷ κεχρημένους.

## ΚΡΕΩΝ.

ἤκιστα τοῦμόν λῆμ' ἔφυ τυραννικόν,  
αἰδοῦμενος δὲ πολλὰ δὴ διέφθορα.

καὶ νῦν ὁρῶ μὲν ἑξαμαρτάνων, γύναι,  
ὁμῶς δὲ τεύξει τοῦδε· προὔννεπ' ἄρα σοι,

350

εἴ σ' ἢ ἡ πιοῦσα λαμπὰς ὄψεται θεοῦ  
καὶ παῖδας ἐντὸς τῆσδε τέρμωνων χθονός,  
θανεῖ· λέλεκται μῦθος ἄψευδής ὁδε.

[νῦν δ', εἰ μένειν δεῖ, μίμν' ἔφ' ἡμέραν μίαν·  
οὐ γάρ τι δράσας δεινὸν ὦν φόβος μ' ἔχει.]

355

## ΧΟΡΟΣ.

δυστάνε γύναι,  
φεῦ φεῦ, μελέα τῶν σῶν ἀχέων.

ποῖ ποτε τρέψει; τίνα πρὸς ξενίαν  
ἢ δόμον ἢ χθόνα σωτήρα κακῶν

360

ἔξευρήσεις;  
ὥς εἰς ἀπὸρόν σε κλύδωνα θεός,  
Μήδεια, κακῶν ἐπόρευσε.

## ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

κακῶς πέπρακται πανταχῇ· τίς ἀντερεῖ;  
ἀλλ' οὔτι ταύτῃ ταῦτα μὴ δοκεῖτέ πω.

365

ἔτ' εἰς ἄγῶνες τοῖς νεωστὶ νυμφίοις,  
καὶ τοῖσι κηδεύσασιν οὐ σμικροὶ πόνοι.

δοκεῖς γὰρ ἂν με τόνδε θάπτευσάι ποτε,  
εἰ μή τι κερδαίνουσιν ἢ τεχνωμένην;

οὐδ' ἂν προσεῖπον οὐδ' ἂν ἡψάμην χεροῖν.

370



ὁ δ' εἰς τοσοῦτον μωρίας ἀφίκετο,  
 ὥστ', ἐξὸν αὐτῷ τὰ μ' ἐλεῖν. βουλευμάτων  
 γῆς ἐκβαλόντι, τήνδ' ἀφήκεν ἡμέραν  
 μείναί μ', ἐν ἧ τρεῖς τῶν ἐμῶν ἐχθρῶν νεκροὺς  
 θήσω, πατέρα τε καὶ κόρην πόσιν τ' ἐμόν. 375  
 πολλὰς δ' ἔχουσα θανάσιμους, αὐτοῖς ὁδοὺς  
 οὐκ οἶδ' ὅποιά πρῶτον ἐγχειρῶ, φίλαι,  
 πότερον ὑφάψω δῶμα γυμφικὸν πυρί,  
 ἢ θηκτὸν ὥσω φάσγανον δι' ἡπάτος,  
 σιγῇ δόμους εἰσβάσ' ἵν' ἐστρώται λέχος. 380  
 ἀλλ' ἐν τί μοι πρόσαντες· εἰ ληφθήσομαι  
 δόμους ὑπερβαίνουσα καὶ τεχνωμένη,  
 θανοῦσα θήσω τοῖς ἐμοῖς ἐχθροῖς χέλων.  
 κράτιστα τὴν εὐθείαν, ἧ πεφύκαμεν  
 σοφαὶ μάλιστα, φαρμάκοις αὐτοὺς ἐλεῖν. 385  
 εἶεν·  
 καὶ δὴ τεθνήασι· τίς με δέξεται πόλις;  
 τίς γῆν ἄσυλον καὶ δόμους ἐχεγγύους  
 ξένος παρασχὼν ῥύσεται τοῦμὸν δέμας;  
 οὐκ ἔστι. μείνας' οὖν ἔτι σμικρὸν χρόνον,  
 ἣν μὲν τις ἡμῖν πύργος ἀσφαλῆς φανῇ,  
 δόλῳ μέτειμι τόνδε καὶ σιγῇ φόνον. 390  
 ἣν δ' ἐξελαύνῃ ξυμφορά μ' ἀμήχανος,  
 αὐτὴ ξίφος λαβοῦσα, κεῖ μέλλω θανεῖν,  
 κτενῶ σφε, τόλμης δ' εἶμι πρὸς τὸ καρτερόν.  
 οὐ γὰρ μὰ τὴν δέσποιναν ἣν ἐγὼ σέβω  
 μάλιστα πάντων καὶ ξυνεργὸν εἰλόμην, 395  
 Ἑκάτην, μυχοῖς ναίουσαν ἐστίας ἐμῆς,  
 χαίρων τις αὐτῶν τοῦμὸν ἀλγυνεῖ κέαρ.

πικροὺς δ' ἐγὼ σφιν καὶ λυγροὺς θήσω γάμους,  
 πικρὸν δὲ <sup>alliance</sup> κῆδος καὶ φυγὰς ἐμὰς <sup>from</sup> χθονός.  
 ἀλλ' εἶα· φείδου μηδὲν ὦν ἐπίστασαι,  
 Μῆδεια, <sup>deliberating</sup> βουλευούσα καὶ <sup>plotting</sup> τεχνώμενη·  
 ἔρπ' εἰς τὸ <sup>audacious</sup> δεινόν· νῦν ἀγὼν <sup>of the</sup> ἐψυχίας.  
 ὁρᾷς ἂ πάσχεις; οὐ γέλωτα δεῖ σ' ὀφλεῖν  
 τοῖς Σισυφείοις, τοῖς τ' Ἰάσονος γάμοις,  
 γέγωσαν ἐσθλοῦ πατρὸς Ἑλίου τ' ἀπο·  
 ἐπίστασαι δέ· <sup>and besides</sup> πρὸς δὲ καὶ πεφύκαμεν <sup>are by nature</sup>  
 γυναῖκες, εἰς μὲν ἔσθλ' ἀμῆχανώπαται,  
 κακῶν δὲ πάντων <sup>inventions</sup> τέκτονες σοφώταται.

## ΧΟΡΟΣ.

Ἄνω ποταμῶν ἱερῶν χῶροῦσι παγαί,  
 καὶ δῖκα καὶ πάντα πάλιν στρέφεται.  
 ἀνδράσι μὲν δολιχαῖ βουλαί, θεῶν δ'  
 οὐκέτι πίστις ἄραρεν·  
 τὰν δ' ἐμὰν εὐκλειαν ἔχειν βιοτὰν στρέψουσι φάμαι  
 ἔρχεται τιμὰ γυναικείῳ γένει·  
 οὐκέτι δυσκέλαδος φάμα γυναῖκας ἔξει.

μοῦσαι δὲ παλαιγενέων λήξουσ' αἰοιδᾶν  
 τὰν ἐμὰν ὑμνεῦσαι ἀπίστοσύναν.  
 οὐ γὰρ ἐν ἀμετέρα γνῶμα λύρας  
 ὥπατε θέσπιν αἰοιδᾶν  
 Φοῖβος, ἀγητῶρ μελέων· ἐπεὶ ἀντάχῃσ' ἂν ὕμνον  
 ἀρσένων γέννα· μακρὸς δ' αἰὼν ἔχει  
 πολλὰ μὲν ἀμετέραν ἀνδρῶν τε μοῖραν εἰπεῖν.



κακῶς <sup>what is</sup> τυράννους· τοιγὰρ ἐκπεσεῖ χθονός.  
 ὅμως δὲ <sup>even after this</sup> κακ τῶνδ' οὐκ ἀπείρηκώς <sup>we are not</sup> φίλοις  
 ἤκω, τὸ σὸν δὲ <sup>from the</sup> προσκοπούμενος, γύναι, 460  
 ὥς μήτ' ἀχρήμων σὺν τέκνοισιν ἐκπέσης  
 μήτ' <sup>in vain</sup> ἐνδεής <sup>anxious</sup> τοῦ· πόλλ' ἐφέλκεται <sup>drives</sup> φυγή <sup>banishment</sup>  
 κακὰ <sup>although</sup> ξὺν αὐτῇ· καὶ γὰρ εἰ <sup>not</sup> σύ με στυγείς,  
 οὐκ ἂν <sup>wish</sup> δυναίμην σοὶ κακῶς φρονεῖν ποτέ.

## ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

ὦ <sup>vilest of all</sup> παγκάκιστε, τοῦτο γάρ σ' εἶπεῖν ἔχω 465  
 γλώσση <sup>language</sup> μέγιστον εἰς <sup>unmanly</sup> ἀνανδρίαν <sup>cowardice</sup> κακόν,  
 ἦλθες πρὸς ἡμᾶς, ἦλθες, <sup>most hateful</sup> ἐχθιστος γεγώς;  
 [θεοῖς τε <sup>providence</sup> καμοὶ παντί τ' ἀνθρώπων γένει;]  
 οὗτοι <sup>providence</sup> θράσος <sup>confidence</sup> τόδ' ἐστὶν οὐδ' εὐτολμία,  
 φίλους <sup>injured</sup> κακῶς <sup>injure</sup> δράσαντ' ἐναντίον <sup>in front of</sup> βλέπειν, 470  
 ἀλλ' ἢ <sup>injudicious</sup> μεγίστη τῶν ἐν ἀνθρώποις νόσων  
 πασῶν, ἀναίδει· εὖ δ' ἐποίησας <sup>as</sup> μολών.  
 ἐγὼ τε γὰρ <sup>resolving</sup> λέξασα <sup>decide</sup> κουφισθήσομαι  
 ψυχὴν <sup>life</sup> κακῶς <sup>life</sup> σε καὶ σὺ <sup>life</sup> λυπήσει κλύων.  
 ἐκ τῶν δὲ <sup>life</sup> πρώτων <sup>life</sup> πρῶτον <sup>life</sup> ἄρξομαι λέγειν. 475  
 ἔσωσά σ', ὡς ἴσασιν Ἑλλήνων ὅσοι  
 ταῦτόν <sup>life</sup> συνεισέβησαν Ἀργῶν σκάφος,  
 πεμφθέντα <sup>life</sup> ταύρων <sup>life</sup> πυρπνόων <sup>life</sup> ἐπιστάτην  
 ζεύγλαισι <sup>life</sup> καὶ σπερόνντα <sup>life</sup> θανάσιμον <sup>life</sup> γύνη·  
 δράκοντα δ', ὅς <sup>life</sup> πάγχρυσον <sup>life</sup> ἀμπέχων <sup>life</sup> δέρας 480  
 σπείραις <sup>life</sup> ἔσωζε <sup>life</sup> πολυπλόκοις <sup>life</sup> αὐπνός <sup>life</sup> ὢν,  
 κτείνας <sup>life</sup> ἀνέσχόν <sup>life</sup> σοὶ <sup>life</sup> φάος <sup>life</sup> σωτήριον,  
 αὐτὴ δὲ <sup>life</sup> πατέρα <sup>life</sup> καὶ <sup>life</sup> δόμους <sup>life</sup> προδοῦσ' <sup>life</sup> ἐμούς  
 τὴν Πηλιῶτιν <sup>life</sup> εἰς <sup>life</sup> Ἰωλκὸν <sup>life</sup> ἰκόμην

σὺν σοί, πρόθυμος μᾶλλον ἢ σοφωτέρα, 485  
 Πελίαν τ' ἀπέκτειν', ὥσπερ ἀλγιστον θανεῖν,  
 παίδων ὑπ' αὐτοῦ, πάντα δ' ἐξείλον φόβον.  
 καὶ ταῦθ' ὑφ' ἡμῶν, ὧ κάκιστ' ἀνδρῶν, παθὼν  
 πρῶδωκας ἡμᾶς, καινὰ δ' ἐκθήσω λέχη 490  
 παίδων γεγώτων· εἰ γὰρ ἦσθ' ἄπαις ἔτι,  
 συγγνώστ' ἂν ἦν σοι τοῦδ' ἐρασθῆναι λέχους.  
 ὄρκων δὲ φρούδη πίστις, οὐδ' ἔχω μαθεῖν  
 ἢ θεοὺς νομίζεις τοὺς τότε οὐκ ἄρχειν ἔτι,  
 ἢ καινὰ κείσθαι <sup>invid</sup> θέσμ' ἐν ἀνθρώποις τὰ νῦν,  
 ἐπεὶ σύνοισθά γ' εἰς ἔμ' οὐκ εὖορκος ὢν. 495  
 φεῦ δεξιὰ χεῖρ, ἧς σὺ πόλλ' ἐλαμβάνου  
 καὶ τῶνδε γονάτων, ὡς μάτην κεχρώσμεθα  
 κακοῦ πρὸς ἀνδρός, ἐλπίδων δ' ἡμάρτομεν <sup>have failed in</sup>  
 ἄγ'· ὥς φίλῳ γὰρ ὄντι σοι κοινώσομαι, <sup>will converse</sup>  
 δοκοῦσα μὲν τί πρὸς γε σοῦ πράξειν καλῶς; 500  
 ὅμως δ'· ἐρωτηθεὶς γὰρ αἰσχίων <sup>you will appear</sup> φανεί.  
 νῦν ποῖ τράπωμαι; πότερα πρὸς πατρός δόμους,  
 οὗς σοὶ προδοῦσα καὶ πάτραν, ἀφικόμην;  
 ἢ πρὸς ταλαίνας Πελιάδας; καλῶς γ' ἂν οὖν  
 δέξαιντό μ' οἴκοις ὧν πατέρα κατέκτανον. 505  
 ἔχει γὰρ οὕτω· τοῖς μὲν οἴκοθεν φίλοις  
 ἐχθρὰ καθέστηχ', οὗς δέ μ' οὐκ ἐχρῆν κακῶς  
 δρᾶν, σοὶ χάριν φέρουσα πολεμίους ἔχω.  
 τοιγάρ με, πολλαῖς μακαρίαν ἂν Ἑλλάδα  
 ἔθηκας ἀντὶ τῶνδε· θαυμαστὸν δέ σε 510  
 ἔχω πόσι καὶ πιστὸν ἢ <sup>καταβόη</sup> τάλαιν' ἐγώ,  
 εἰ φεύξομαί γε γαῖαν ἐκβεβλημένη, <sup>cast out</sup>  
 φίλων ἔρημος, σὺν τέκνοις μόνη μόνοις·

καλόν γ' οὔνεϊδος τῷ νεωστὶ νυμφίῳ,  
 πτωχοὺς ἀλᾶσθαι παῖδας ἢ τ' ἔσωσά σε. 515  
 ὦ Ζεῦ, τί δὴ χρυσοῦ μὲν ὅς κ' ἰβδηλος ἦ  
 τέκμηρί' ἀνθρώποισιν ὥπασας σαφῆ,  
 ἀνδρῶν δ' ὅτ' ἔχῃ τὸν κακὸν διειδέναί,  
 οὔδεις χαρακτήρ ἐμπέφυκε σώματι;

## ΧΟΡΟΣ.

δεινὴ τις ὀργὴ καὶ δυσίατος πέλει,  
 ὅταν φίλοι φίλοισι συμβάλωσ' ἔριν. 520

## ΙΑΣΩΝ.

δεῖ μ', ὡς ἔοικε, μὴ κακὸν φῦναι λέγειν,  
 ἀλλ' ὥστε ναὸς κεδνὸν οἰακοστρόφον  
 ἄκροισι λαΐφους κρασπέδοις ὑπεκδράμειν  
 τὴν σὴν στομαργον, ὦ γύναι, γλωσσαλγίαν. 525  
 ἐγὼ δ', ἐπειδὴ καὶ λίαν πύργοις χάριν,  
 Κύπρῳ νομίζω τῆς ἐμῆς ναυκληρίας  
 σώτειραν εἶναι θεῶν τε καὶ ἀνθρώπων πόνην.  
 σοὶ δ' ἔστι μὲν νοῦς λεπτός, ἀλλ' ἐπίφθονος  
 λόγος διελθεῖν, ὡς Ἴερος σ' ἠνάγκασε 530  
 τόξοις ἀφύκτοις τοῦμὸν ἐκσῶσαι δέμας.  
 ἀλλ' οὐκ ἀκριβῶς αὐτὸ θήσομαι λίαν·  
 ὅπη γὰρ οὖν ὠνησάς, οὐ κακῶς ἔχει.  
 μείζω γε μέντοί τῆς ἐμῆς σωτηρίας  
 εἰληφας ἢ δέδωκας, ὡς ἐγὼ φράσω. 535  
 πρῶτον μὲν Ἑλλάδ' ἀντὶ βαρβάρου χθονὸς  
 γαῖαν κατοικεῖς καὶ δίκην ἐπίστασαι  
 νόμοις τε χρῆσθαι μὴ πρᾶς ἰσχύος χάριν·

πάντες δέ σ' ἤσθοντ' οὔσαν Ἑλληνες σοφὴν  
καὶ δόξαν ἔσχες· εἰ δὲ γῆς ἐπ' ἐσχάτοις 540  
ὄροισιν ᾤκεις, οὐκ ἂν ἦν λόγος σέθεν.

εἴη δ' ἔμοιγε μήτε χρυσὸς ἐν δόμοις  
μήτ' Ὀρφέως κάλλιον ὑμνῆσαι μέλος,  
εἰ μὴ ἴσσημός ἢ τύχη γένοιτό μοι.

τοσαῦτα μέντοι τῶν ἐμῶν πόνων πέρι 545  
ἔλεξ'· ἀμίλλαν γὰρ σὺ προύθηκας λόγων.

ἀ δ' εἰς γάμους μοι βασιλικούς ὠνειδίσας,  
ἐν τῷδε δείξω πρῶτα μὲν σοφὸς γεγώς,  
ἔπειτα σῶφρων, εἴτα σοὶ μέγας φίλος  
καὶ παισὶ τοῖς ἐμοῖσιν· ἀλλ' ἔχ' ἡσυχος. 550

ἐπεὶ μετέστην δεῦρ' Ἰωλκίας χθονὸς  
πολλὰς ἐφέλκων συμφορὰς ἀμηχάνους  
τί τοῦδ' ἂν εὐρημ' εὐρον εὐτυχέστερον,  
ἢ παῖδα γῆμαι βασιλέως φυγὰς γεγώς;

οὐχ, ἢ σὺ κνίζεις, σὸν μὲν ἐχθαίρων λέχος, 555  
καινῆς δὲ νύμφης ἡμέρῳ πεπληγμένος,

οὐδ' εἰς ἀμίλλαν πολύτεκνον σπουδὴν ἔχων·  
ἄλῃς γὰρ οἱ γεγῶτες, οὐδὲ μέμφομαι.

ἀλλ' ὥς, τὸ μὲν μέγιστον, οἰκοῦμεν καλῶς  
καὶ μὴ σπανιζοίμεσθα, γινώσκων ὅτι 560  
πένητα φεύγει πᾶς τις ἐκποδῶν φίλος,

παῖδας δὲ θρέψαιμ' ἀξίως δόμων ἐμῶν,  
σπείρας τ' ἀδελφούς τοῖσιν ἐκ σέθεν τέκνοις  
εἰς ταῦτ' ἰεῖν καὶ ξυναρτῆσας γένος  
εὐδαιμονοίην. σοὶ τε γὰρ παίδων τί δεῖ; 565

ἐμοί τε λύει τοῖσι μέλλουσιν τέκνοις  
τὰ ζῶντ' ὀνῆσαι. μῶν βεβούλευμαι κακῶς;

οὐδ' ἂν σὺ φαίης, εἴ σε μὴ κνίζοι λέχος.  
 ἀλλ' εἰς τοσοῦτον ἤκεθ' ὥστ' ὀρθοῦμένης  
 εὐνῆς <sup>γυναικες</sup> πάντ' ἔχειν νομίζετε,  
 ἣν δ' αὖ γένηται ξυμφορά τις εἰς λέχος,  
 τὰ λῶστα καὶ <sup>καλλίστα</sup> πολεμιώτατα  
 τίθεσθε. χρῆν γὰρ ἄλλοθεν ποθεν βροτοὺς  
 παῖδας τεκνοῦσθαι, θῆλυ δ' οὐκ εἶναι γένος.  
 χοῦτως ἂν οὐκ ἦν οὐδέν <sup>ἀνθρώποις</sup> κακόν.

579

} Good!  
575

## ΧΟΡΟΣ.

Ἰᾶσον, εὖ μὲν τούσδ' ἐκόσμησας λόγους·  
 ὅμως δ' ἔμοιγε, κεί παρα γνώμην ἐρῶ,  
 δοκεῖς προδοῦς σὴν ἄλοχον οὐ δίκαια δρᾶν.

## ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

ἦ πολλὰ πολλοῖς εἰμι διάφορος βροτῶν.  
 ἐμοὶ γὰρ ὅστις ἄδικος ὦν σοφὸς λέγειν  
 πέφυκε, πλείστην ζημίαν ὀφλισκάζει·  
 γλώσση γὰρ αὐχῶν τ' ἀδικ' εὖ περιστελεῖν,  
 τολμᾷ πανουργεῖν· ἔστι δ' οὐκ ἄγαυ' σοφός.  
 ὥς καὶ σὺ μὴ νῦν εἰς ἐμ' εὐσχήμων γένῃ  
 λέγειν τε δεινός· ἐν γὰρ ἐκτενεῖ σ' ἔπος·  
 χρῆν σ', εἴπερ ἦσθα μὴ κακός, πείσαντά με  
 γαμεῖν γάμον τόνδ', ἀλλὰ μὴ σιγῇ φίλων.

580

585

## ΙΑΣΩΝ.

καλῶς γ' ἂν οὖν σὺ τῷδ' ὑπηρετεῖς λόγῳ,  
 εἴ σοι γάμον κατέειπον, ἥτις οὐδὲ νῦν  
 τολμᾷς μεθεῖναι καρδίᾳς μέγαν χόλον.

590



## ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

οὐ τοῦτό σ' εἶχεν, ἀλλὰ βάρβαρον λέχος  
πρὸς γῆρας οὐκ εὐδοξὸν ἐξεβαίνει σοι.

## ΙΑΣΩΝ.

εὖ νῦν τόδ' ἴσθι, μὴ γυναικὸς οὐνεκα  
γῆμαί με λέκτρα βασιλέων ἂ νῦν ἔχω,  
ἀλλ', ὥσπερ εἶπον καὶ πάρος, σῶσαι θέλων 595  
σέ καί, τέκνοισι τοῖς ἐμοῖς ὁμοσπόρους  
φῦσαι τυράννους παῖδας, ἔρυμα δώμασιν.

## ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

μή μοι γένοιτο λυπρὸς εὐδαίμων βίος,  
μηδ' ὄλβος ὅστις τὴν ἐμὴν κνίξοι φρένα.

## ΙΑΣΩΝ.

οἶσθ' ὥς μετεύξει καὶ σοφωτέρα φανεῖ;  
τὰ χρηστὰ μὴ σοι λυπρὰ φαιnéσθω ποτέ,  
μηδ' εὐτυχοῦσα, δύστυχῆς εἶναι δόκει. 600

## ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

ὑβρίζ', ἐπειδὴ σοὶ μὲν ἔστ' ἀποστροφή, <sup>ἡφύστε</sup>  
ἐγὼ δ' ἔρημος τήνδε φευξοῦμαι χθόνα.

## ΙΑΣΩΝ.

αὐτὴ τάδ' εἶλον· <sup>ἢ</sup>μηδέν' ἄλλον αἰτιῶ. 605

## ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

τί δρῶσα; μῶν γαμοῦσα καὶ προδοῦσά σε;

*μὴδεια*  
 ἸΑΣΩΝ.  
*unhallowed* *imprescati*  
 ἀρὰς τυράννοις ἀνοσίους ἀρωμένη.

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

*curios*  
 καὶ σοῖς ἀραία γ' οὔσα τυγχάνω δόμοις.

ΙΑΣΩΝ.

*dispute* *with*  
 ὥς οὐ κρίνοῦμαι τῶνδέ<sup>α</sup> σοι τὰ πλείονα.  
 ἀλλ' εἴ τι βούλει παισὶν ἢ σαυτῆς φυγῇ 610  
*as an honest man*  
 προσωφέλημα χρημάτων ἐμῶν λαβεῖν,  
 λέγ'· ὥς ἐτοιμὸς ἀφθονῶ<sup>αφθονῶ</sup> δοῦναι χερὶ  
 ξένοις τε πέμπειν *τίκται* σύμβολ', οἳ δράσουσί σ' εὔ.  
 καὶ ταῦτα μὴ θέλουσα μωράνεις, γύναι·  
*οὐδὲν ἔστιν* *have*  
 λήξασα δ' ὀργῆς κέρδανεις ἀμείνονα. 615

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

οὔτ' ἂν ξένοισι τοῖσι σοῖς χρησαίμεθ' ἂν,  
 οὔτ' ἂν τι δεξαίμεσθα, μήθ' ἡμῖν δίδου·  
 κακοῦ γὰρ ἀνδρὸς δῶρ' ὄνησιν οὐκ ἔχει.

ΙΑΣΩΝ.

*καὶ ἄλλοι*  
 ἀλλ' οὖν ἐγὼ μὲν δαίμονας μαρτύρομαι,  
 ὥς πάνθ' ὑποῦργεῖν σοί τε καὶ τέκνοις θέλω· 620  
 σοὶ δ' οὐκ ἀρέσκει τὰγάθ', ἀλλ' αὐθαδία  
*πολλοὶ*  
 φίλους ἀπωθεῖ· τοιγὰρ ἀλγύνει πλέον.

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

*λέγοντες* *in dicit*  
 χῶρει· πόθω γὰρ τῆς νεοδμήτου κόρης  
 αἰρεῖ χρόνιζων δωμάτων ἐξώπιος·

νύμφευ· ἴσως γάρ· σὺν θεῷ δ' εἰρήσεται·  
 γαμείς τοιοῦτον ὥστε σ' ἀρνεῖσθαι γάμον.

625

## ΧΟΡΟΣ.

Ερωτες ὑπὲρ μὲν ἄγαν ἐλθόντες οὐκ εὐδοξίαν  
 οὐδ' ἀρετὰν παρέδωκαν ἀνδράσιν· εἰ δ' ἄλις ἔλθοι  
 Κύπρις, οὐκ ἄλλα θεὸς εὐχαρίς οὕτως.

631

μήποτ', ὦ δέσποιν', ἐπ' ἐμοὶ χρυσέων τόξων ἐφείης  
 ἡμέρῃ χρίσας' ἀφυκτον οἰστόν.

ἀντ. α'.

στέργοι δέ με σωφροσύνα, δῶρημα κάλλιστον θεῶν·  
 μηδέ πατ' ἀμφιλόγους ὀργὰς ἀκόρεστά τε νείκη,  
 θυμὸν ἐκπλήξας' ἑτέροις ἐπὶ λέκτροις,  
 προσβάλαι δεινὰ Κύπρις, ἀπτολέμους δ' εὐνὰς σεβί-  
 ζουσ' ὀξύφρων κρίνοι, λέχη γυναικῶν.

639

ὦ πατρίς, ὦ δώματα, μὴ  
 δῆτ' ἀπόλις γενοίμαν  
 τὸν ἀμνηχανίας ἔχουσα δυσπέρατον αἰῶν', οἰκτρότατον  
 ἀχέων.

στρ. β'.

647

θανάτῳ θανάτῳ πάρος δαμείην  
 ἀμέραντάνδ' ἐξανύσασα· μοχθῶν δ' οὐκ ἄλλος ὑπερθεῖν ἤ  
 γὰς πατρίας στέρεσθαι.

652

εἶδομεν, οὐκ ἐξ ἑτέρων  
 μῦθον ἔχω φράσασθαι·  
 σὲ γὰρ οὐ πόλις, οὐ φίλων τις ᾗκτισεν παθοῦσαν  
 δεινότατα παθέων.

ἀντ. β'.

655

ἀχάριστος ὅλοιθ', ὅτῳ πάρεστι

μὴ φίλους τιμᾶν, καθαρὰν ἀνοίξαντα κλῆδα φρενῶν.  
 ἔμοι  
 μὲν φίλος οὐποτ' ἔσται.

ΑΙΓΕΥΣ.

Μήδεια, χαῖρε· τοῦδε γὰρ προοίμιον  
 κάλλιον οὐδεὶς οἶδε προσφωνεῖν φίλους.

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

ὦ χαῖρε καὶ σύ, παῖ σοφοῦ Πανδίωνος,  
 Αἰγεῦ. πόθεν γῆς τῆσδ' ἐπιστρωφᾷ πέδον;

ΑΙΓΕΥΣ.

Φοίβου παλαιὸν ἐκλιπὼν χρηστήριον.

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

τί δ' ὀμφαλὸν γῆς θεσπιωδὸν ἐστάλης;

ΑΙΓΕΥΣ.

παίδων ἐρευνῶν σπέρμ' ὅπως γένοιτό μοι.

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

πρὸς θεῶν, ἄπαις γὰρ δεῦρ' αἰεὶ τείνεις βίον;

ΑΙΓΕΥΣ.

ἄπαιδές ἐσμεν, δαίμονός τινος ἡ τύχη.

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

δάμαρτος οὐσης, ἢ λέχους ἄπειρος ὢν;

ΑΙΓΕΥΣ.

οὐκ ἐσμέν εὐνήs <sup>des. t. l.</sup> ἄζυγες γαμηλίου.

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

τί δῆτα Φοῖβος εἶπέ σοι, παίδων <sup>concerning</sup> πέρι;

ΑΙΓΕΥΣ.

σοφώτερ' ἢ κατ' ἄνδρα <sup>from a man's</sup> συμβαλεῖν <sup>endeavour</sup> ἔπη. 675

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

<sup>Alas!</sup> θέμις μὲν ἡμᾶs <sup>should</sup> χρησµὸν εἰδέναι θεοῦ;

ΑΙΓΕΥΣ.

<sup>Alas!</sup> μάλιστ', ἐπεὶ τοι καὶ σοφῆs δεῖται φρενός.

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

τί δῆτ' ἔχρησε; λέξον, εἰ θέμις κλύειν.

ΑΙΓΕΥΣ.

ἄσκού <sup>6</sup> με τὸν <sup>4</sup> προὔχοντα <sup>7</sup> μὴ λῦσαι <sup>5</sup> πόδα —

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

πρὶν ἂν τί δράσης ἢ τίν' <sup>canst</sup> ἐξίκη χθόνα; 680

ΑΙΓΕΥΣ.

πρὶν ἂν πατρώαν αὖθις <sup>hast</sup> ἐστίαν <sup>revert</sup> μόλω.

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

σὺ δ' ὥs <sup>Alas!</sup> τί <sup>will</sup> χρήζων <sup>will</sup> τήνδε ναυστολεῖs χθόνα;

ΑΙΓΕΥΣ.

Πιθεύς τις ἔστι γῆς ἄναξ Τροιζηνίαδ.

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

παῖς, ὡς λέγουσι, Πέλοπος <sup>must have</sup> εὐσεβέστατος.

ΑΙΓΕΥΣ.

τούτῳ θεοῦ μάντευμα <sup>must have</sup> κοινῶσαι θέλω.

685

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

σοφὸς γὰρ ἀνὴρ καὶ <sup>must have</sup> τρίβων τὰ τοιάδε.

ΑΙΓΕΥΣ.

κάμοί γε πάντων <sup>must have</sup> φίλτατος <sup>must have</sup> δορυξένων.

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

ἀλλ' <sup>must have</sup> εὐτυχοίης καὶ <sup>must have</sup> τύχοις ὅσων <sup>must have</sup> ἐράς.

ΑΙΓΕΥΣ.

τί γὰρ σὸν ὄμμα <sup>must have</sup> χρώς τε <sup>must have</sup> συντέτηχ' ὅδε;

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

Αἰγεῦ, <sup>must have</sup> κάκιστος ἔστι μοι πάντων πόσις.

690

ΑΙΓΕΥΣ.

τί φῆς; σαφῶς μοι σὰς φράσον δυσθυμίας.

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

ἀδικεῖ μ' Ἰάσων οὐδὲν ἐξ ἐμοῦ παθών.

ΑΙΓΕΥΣ.

τί χρῆμα δράσας; φράζε μοι σαφέστερον.

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

γυναῖκ' ἐφ' ἡμῖν δεσπότην δόμων ἔχει.

ΑΙΓΕΥΣ.

ἥ που τετόλμηκ' ἔργον αἰσχιστον τόδε;

695

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

σάφ' ἴσθ'· ἄτιμοι δ' ἐσμὲν οἱ πρὸ τοῦ φίλοι.

ΑΙΓΕΥΣ.

πότερον ἐρασθεὶς ἢ σὸν ἐχθαίρων λέχος;

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

μέγαν γ' ἔρωτα· πιστὸς οὐκ ἔφυ φίλοις.

ΑΙΓΕΥΣ.

ἴτω νυν, εἴπερ ὡς λέγεις ἐστὶν κακός.

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

ἀνδρῶν τυράννων κῆδος ἡράσθη λαβεῖν.

700

ΑΙΓΕΥΣ.

δίδωσί δ' αὐτῷ τίς; πέραινέ μοι λόγον.

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

Κρέων, ὃς ἄρχει τῆσδε γῆς Κορινθίας.

ΑΙΓΕΥΣ.

<sup>handona</sup> συγγνώστ' ἄγαν ἄρ' ἦν σε λυπεῖσθαι, γύναι.

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

ὄλωλα· καὶ πρὸς γ' ἐξελαύνομαι χθονός.

ΑΙΓΕΥΣ.

πρὸς τοῦ; τόδ' ἄλλο καινὸν αὖ λέγεις κακόν. 705

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

Κρέων μ' ἐλαύνει φυγάδα γῆς Κορινθίας.

ΑΙΓΕΥΣ.

<sup>allow</sup> ἔᾗ δ' Ἰάσων; οὐδὲ ταῦτ' ἐπῆνεσα.

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

λόγῳ μὲν οὐχί, <sup>heart</sup> κάρτερεῖν δὲ βούλεται.  
 ἀλλ' <sup>embrace</sup> ἄντομαί σε τῆσδε πρὸς γενειάδος  
 γονάτων τε τῶν σῶν <sup>embrace</sup> ἱκεσία τε γίγνομαι, 710  
 οἰκτεῖρον οἰκτειρόν με τὴν δυσδαίμονα  
 καὶ μή μ' ἔρημον ἐκπεσοῦσαν εἰσίδης,  
 δέξαι δὲ χώρα καὶ δόμοις ἐφέστιον.  
 οὕτως ἔρως σοι πρὸς θεῶν τελεσφόρος  
 γένοιτο παίδων, καὐτὸς ὀλβίός θάνοις. 715  
 εὖρημα δ' οὐκ οἶσθ' οἶον εὖρηκας τόδε·  
 παύσω δέ σ' ὄντ' ἄπαιδα καὶ παίδων γονὰς  
 σπείραί σε θήσω· τοιάδ' οἶδα φάρμακα.



## ΑΙΓΕΥΣ.

πολλῶν ἑκατι τήνδε σοι δοῦναι χάριν,  
 γύναι, πρόθυμός εἰμι, πρῶτα μὲν θεῶν,  
 ἔπειτα παίδων ὧν ἐπαγγέλλει γονάς.  
 εἰς τοῦτο γὰρ δὴ φροῦδός εἰμι πᾶς ἐγώ.  
 οὕτω δ' ἔχει μοι· σοῦ μὲν ἐλθούσης, χθόνα,  
 πειράσομαί σου προξενεῖν, δίκαιος ὢν.  
 [τοσόνδε μέντοι σοι προσήμαινω, γύναι·  
 ἐκ τῆσδε μὲν γῆς οὐ σ' ἄγειν βουλήσομαι,  
 αὐτὴ δ' εἰάνπερ εἰς ἐμοὺς ἔλθῃς δόμους,  
 μενεῖς ἄσυλος κοῦ σε μὴ μεθῶ τι·]  
 ἐκ τῆσδε δ' αὐτὴ γῆς ἀπαλλᾶσσοῦ πόδα·  
 ἀναίτιος γὰρ καὶ ξένοις εἶναι θέλω.

## ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

ἔσται τάδ'· ἀλλὰ πίστις εἰ γένοιτό μοι  
 τούτων, ἔχοιμ' ἂν πάντα πρὸς σέθεν καλῶς.

## ΑΙΓΕΥΣ.

μῶν οὐ πέποιθας; ἢ τί σοι τὸ δυσχερές;

## ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

πέποιθα· Πελίου δ' ἐχθρός ἐστί μοι δόμος  
 Κρέων τε. τούτοις δ', ὄρκίοισι μὲν ζυγείς,  
 ἄγουσιν οὐ μεθεῖ' ἂν ἐκ γαίας ἐμέ·  
 λόγοις δὲ συμβὰς καὶ θεῶν ἀνώμοτος,  
 φίλος γένοι' ἂν κάπικηρυκεύματα  
 τάχ' ἂν πίθοι σε· τὰμὰ μὲν γὰρ ἀσθενῇ,  
 τοῖς δ' ὄλβος ἔστι καὶ δόμος τυραννικός.

## ΑΙΓΕΥΣ.

πολλὴν ἔλεξας, ὦ γύναι, προμηθίαν·  
 ἀλλ' εἰδοκεῖ σοι, δρᾶν τάδ' οὐκ ἀφίσταμαι.  
 ἐμοὶ <sup>ἀλλο</sup> τε γὰρ τάδ' ἐστὶν ἀσφαλέστατα,  
 σκῆψίν <sup>ἀλλο</sup> τιν' ἐχθροῖς <sup>ἀλλο</sup> σοῖς <sup>ἀλλο</sup> ἔχοντα δεικνύναι,  
 τὸ σόν <sup>ἀλλο</sup> τ' ἄραρε μᾶλλον· ἐξηγοῦ θεοῦς.

745

## ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

ὅμνυ πέδον Γῆς πατέρα θ' Ἥλιον πατρὸς  
 τοῦμοῦ θεῶν <sup>ἀλλο</sup> τε συντιθεῖς ἅπαν γένος.

## ΑΙΓΕΥΣ.

τί χρήμα δράσειν ἢ τί μὴ δράσειν; λέγε.

## ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

μήτ' αὐτὸς ἐκ γῆς σῆς ἔμ' ἐκβαλεῖν ποτε,  
 μήτ' ἄλλος ἦν τις τῶν ἐμῶν ἐχθρῶν ἄγειν  
 χρήζῃ, μεθήσειν ζῶν ἐκούσιῳ τρόπῳ.

750

## ΑΙΓΕΥΣ.

ὅμνυμι Γαῖαν Ἥλιον θ' ἄγνον σέβας  
 θεοῦς τε πάντας ἐμμένειν' ἅ σου κλύω.

## ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

ἀρκεῖ· τί δ' ὄρκῳ τῷδε μὴ ὑμμένων πάθοις;

## ΑΙΓΕΥΣ.

ἅ τοῖσι <sup>ἀλλο</sup> δυσσεβοῦσι γίγνεται βροτῶν.

755

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

πονοῦμεν ἡμεῖς κοῦ πόνων κεχρήμεθα.

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

τάχ' ἐξ ὀπαδῶν χειρὸς ὠσθήσει βία.

335

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

μὴ δῆτα τοῦτό γ', ἀλλὰ σ' αἰτοῦμαι, Κρέον —

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

ὄχλον παρέξεις, ὥς ἔοικας, ὦ γύναι.

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

φευξοῦμεθ'· οὐ τοῦθ' ἰκέτευσα σοῦ τυχεῖν.

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

τί δ' αὖ βιάζει κοῦκ ἀπαλλάσσει χθονός;

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

μίαν με μείναι τήνδ' ἔασον ἡμέραν

340

καὶ ξυμπεράναι φροντίδ' ἢ φευξοῦμεθα,

παισὶν τ' ἀφορμὴν τοῖς ἐμοῖς, ἐπεὶ πατὴρ

οὐδὲν προτιμᾷ μηχανήσασθαι τέκνοις.

οἴκτειρε δ' αὐτούς· καὶ σύ τοι παίδων πατὴρ

πέφυκας· εἰκὸς δ' ἐστὶν εὐνοιάν σ' ἔχειν.

345

τοῦμοῦ γὰρ οὐ μοι φροντίς, εἰ φευξοῦμεθα,

κείνους δὲ κλαίω συμφορᾷ κεχρημένους.

## ΚΡΕΩΝ.

ἤκιστα τοῦμόν λῆμ' ἔφυ τυραννικόν,  
 αἰδοῦμενος δὲ πρὸς δὴ διέφθορά·  
 καὶ νῦν ὁρῶ μὲν ἑξαμαρτάνων, γύναι, 350  
 ὁμῶς δὲ τεύξει τοῦδε· προὔννέπω δέ σοι,  
 εἴ σ' ἡ ἑπιούσα λαμπὰς ὄψεται θεοῦ  
 καὶ παῖδας ἐντὸς τῆσδε τέρμωνων χθονός,  
 θανεῖ· λέλεκται μῦθος ἄψευδῆς ὁδε.  
 [νῦν δ', εἰ μένειν δεῖ, μίμν' ἐφ' ἡμέραν μίαν· 355  
 οὐ γάρ τι δράσαιοι δεινὸν ὦν φόβος μ' ἔχει.]

## ΧΟΡΟΣ.

<sup>δυστάνει</sup>  
 δυστάνει γύναι,  
 φεῦ φεῦ, μέλεα τῶν σῶν ἀχέων.  
 ποῖ ποτε τρέψει; τίνα πρὸς ξενίαν  
 ἢ δόμον ἢ χθόνα σωτήρα κακῶν 360  
 ἐξευρήσεις;  
 ὥς εἰς ἀπὸρόν σε κλύδωνα θεός,  
 Μήδεια, κακῶν ἐπόρευσε.

## ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

κακῶς πέπρακται πανταχῇ· τίς ἀντερεῖ;  
 ἀλλ' οὔτι ταύτη ταῦτα μὴ δοκεῖτέ πω. 365  
 ἔτ' εἰς ἄγωνες τοῖς νεωστὶ νυμφίοις,  
 καὶ τοῖσι κηδεύσασιν οὐ σμικροὶ πόνοι.  
 δοκεῖς γὰρ ἂν με τόνδε θῶπεῦσαί ποτε,  
 εἰ μή τι κερδαίνουσιν ἢ τεχνωμένην;  
 οὐδ' ἂν προσεῖπον οὐδ' ἂν ἠψάμην χεροῖν. 370

ὁ δ' εἰς τοσοῦτον <sup>μωρίας</sup> ἀφίκετο,  
 ὥστ', ἐξὸν αὐτῷ τὰ μ' ἐλεῖν βουλευματα  
 γῆς ἐκβαλόντι, τήνδ' ἀφήκεν ἡμέραν  
 μέйнаί μ', ἐν ᾗ τρεῖς τῶν ἐμῶν ἐχθρῶν νεκροὺς <sup>δια</sup>  
 θήσω, πατέρα τε καὶ κόρην πόσιν τ' ἐμόν. 375  
 πολλὰς δ' ἔχουσα θανάσιμους αὐτοῖς ὁδοὺς  
 οὐκ οἶδ' ὁποία πρῶτον ἐγχειρῶ, φίλαι,  
 πότερον ὑφάψω δῶμα <sup>νυμφικὸν</sup> πυρί,  
 ἢ θηκτὸν ὥσω φάσγανον δι' ἡπατος,  
 σιγῇ δόμους εἰσβάσ' ἵν' ἐστρώται λέχος. 380  
 ἀλλ' ἐν τί μοι πρόσαντες· εἰ ληφθήσομαι  
 δόμους ὑπερβαίνουσα καὶ τεχνωμένη,  
 θανοῦσα θήσω τοῖς ἐμοῖς ἐχθροῖς χέλων.  
 κράτιστα τὴν εὐθείαν, ἣ πεφύκαμεν  
 σοφαὶ μάλιστα, φαρμάκοις αὐτοὺς ἐλεῖν. 385  
 εἶεν·

καὶ δὴ τεθνᾶσι· τίς με δέξεται πόλις;  
 τίς γῆν ἄσυλον καὶ δόμους ἐχεγγύους  
 ξένος παρασχῶν ρύσεται τοῦμὸν δέμας;  
 οὐκ ἔστι. μέйнаσ' οὖν ἔτι σμικρὸν χρόνον,  
 ἣν μὲν τις ἡμῖν πύργος ἀσφαλῆς φανῇ,  
 δόλῳ μέτειμι τόνδε καὶ σιγῇ φόνον· 390  
 ἣν δ' ἐξελαύνῃ ξυμφορὰ μ' ἀμῆχανος,  
 αὐτὴ ξίφος λαβοῦσα, κεῖ μέλλω θανεῖν,  
 κτενῶ σφε, τόλμῃ δ' εἶμι πρὸς τὸ καρτερόν.  
 οὐ γὰρ μὰ τὴν δέσποιναν ἣν ἐγὼ σέβω  
 μάλιστα πάντων καὶ ξυνεργὸν εἰλόμην, 395  
 Ἑκάτην, μυχοῖς ναίουσαν ἐστίας ἐμῆς,  
 χαίρων τις αὐτῶν τοῦμὸν ἀλγυνεῖ κέαρ.

καὶ θεῶν παῖδες μακάρων, ἱεράς  
 χώρας ἀπορθήτου τ' ἀποφέρβοντο κλείνοτάταν σο-

825

φίαν,  
 αἰεὶ διὰ λάμπροτάτου βαίνοντες ἀβρῶς αἰθέρος, ἔνθα  
 ποθ' ἄγνασσε

ἐννέα Πιερίδας Μούσας λέγουσι  
 ξάνθαν Ἀρμονίαν φυτεύσαι

833

τοῦ καλλινάου τ' ἀπὸ Κηφισοῦ ῥοᾶς  
 τὰν Κύπριν κλήζουσιν ἀφυσσάμεναν  
 χώραν . . . . . καταπνεύσαι μετρία ἀνέμων [αὔρας].  
 αἰεὶ δ' ἐπιβαλλομέναν χαίταισιν εὐώδη ῥοδέων πλόκον  
 ἀνθέων

ἀντ. α'.

836

τῇ σοφίᾳ παρέδρους πέμπειν ἔρωτας,  
 παντοίας ἀρετᾶς ξυνέργους.

845

πῶς οὖν ἱερῶν ποταμῶν

στρ. β'.

ἢ πόλις ἢ φίλων  
 πόμπιμός σε χώρα  
 τὰν παιδολετεῖραν ἔξει,  
 τὰν οὐχ ὅσιαν μετ' ἄλλων;  
 σκέψαι τεκέων πλαγάν;  
 σκέψαι φόνον οἶον αἶρει.  
 μή, πρὸς γονάτων, σε πάντως  
 πάντα σ' ἱκετεύομέν,  
 τέκνα φονεύσης.

850

855

πόθεν θράσος ἢ φρενὸς ἢ  
 χειρί, τέκνον, σέθεν  
 καρδίᾳ τε λήψει,

ἀντ. β'.

δεινὰν <sup>happening</sup> πρόσταγονσα <sup>did</sup> τόλμαν;  
 πῶς δ' ὄμματα <sup>have</sup> προσβαλόνσα <sup>darted</sup>  
 τέκνοις <sup>periphrasis</sup> ἄδακρυν μοῖραν  
 σχήσεις <sup>be able to</sup> φόγου; οὐ δυνάσει,  
 παίδων <sup>be able to</sup> ἱκέταν <sup>fall</sup> πιτνόντων,  
<sup>be able to</sup> τέγξαι <sup>will be</sup> χέρα <sup>will be</sup> φοινίαν  
 τλαμονι <sup>will be</sup> θυμῷ.

860

865

## ΙΑΣΩΝ.

Ἦκω <sup>αἰσχροί</sup> κελευσθεῖς· καὶ γὰρ οὔσα <sup>εἰσπαισ</sup> δυσμενῆς  
 οὐτὰν <sup>εἰσπαισ</sup> ἀμάρτοις τοῦδέ γ', ἀλλ' ἀκούσομαι  
 τί χρῆμα <sup>εἰσπαισ</sup> βούλει <sup>εἰσπαισ</sup> καινὸν ἐξ ἐμοῦ, γύναι.

## ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

Ἰᾶσον, αἰτοῦμαί <sup>εἰσπαισ</sup> σε <sup>εἰσπαισ</sup> τῶν <sup>εἰσπαισ</sup> ξιρημένων  
 συγγνώμον' εἶναι· τὰς δ' ἐμὰς ὀργὰς <sup>εἰσπαισ</sup> φέρειν  
 εἰκός σ', ἐπεὶ <sup>εἰσπαισ</sup> νῦν <sup>εἰσπαισ</sup> πόλλ' <sup>εἰσπαισ</sup> ὑπείργασται <sup>εἰσπαισ</sup> φίλα.  
 ἐγὼ δ' ἐμαυτῇ <sup>εἰσπαισ</sup> διὰ <sup>εἰσπαισ</sup> λόγων <sup>εἰσπαισ</sup> ἀφικόμην,  
 καλοῖδορρησα· <sup>εἰσπαισ</sup> σχετλία, <sup>εἰσπαισ</sup> τί <sup>εἰσπαισ</sup> μαίνομαι  
 καὶ <sup>εἰσπαισ</sup> δυσμεναίνω <sup>εἰσπαισ</sup> τοῖσι <sup>εἰσπαισ</sup> βουλεύουσιν <sup>εἰσπαισ</sup> εὖ,  
 ἐχθρὰ δὲ γαίας <sup>εἰσπαισ</sup> κοῖραν <sup>εἰσπαισ</sup> οἰς <sup>εἰσπαισ</sup> καθίσταμαι  
 πόσει θ', ὅς <sup>εἰσπαισ</sup> ἡμῖν <sup>εἰσπαισ</sup> δρᾷ <sup>εἰσπαισ</sup> τὰ <sup>εἰσπαισ</sup> συμφορώτατα,  
 γήμας <sup>εἰσπαισ</sup> τύραννον <sup>εἰσπαισ</sup> καὶ <sup>εἰσπαισ</sup> κασίγνήτους <sup>εἰσπαισ</sup> τέκνοις  
 ἐμοῖς <sup>εἰσπαισ</sup> φυτεύων; οὐκ <sup>εἰσπαισ</sup> ἀπαλλαχθήσομαι  
 θυμοῦ; τί <sup>εἰσπαισ</sup> πάσχω, <sup>εἰσπαισ</sup> θεῶν <sup>εἰσπαισ</sup> ποριζόντων <sup>εἰσπαισ</sup> καλῶς;  
 οὐκ <sup>εἰσπαισ</sup> εἰσὶ <sup>εἰσπαισ</sup> μὲν <sup>εἰσπαισ</sup> μοι <sup>εἰσπαισ</sup> παῖδες, <sup>εἰσπαισ</sup> οἶδα <sup>εἰσπαισ</sup> δὲ <sup>εἰσπαισ</sup> χθόνα  
 φεύγοντας <sup>εἰσπαισ</sup> ἡμᾶς <sup>εἰσπαισ</sup> καὶ <sup>εἰσπαισ</sup> σπανίζοντας <sup>εἰσπαισ</sup> φίλων;  
 ταῦτ' <sup>εἰσπαισ</sup> ἐννοήσας <sup>εἰσπαισ</sup> ἡσθόμην <sup>εἰσπαισ</sup> ἀβουλίαν  
 πολλὴν <sup>εἰσπαισ</sup> ἔχουσα <sup>εἰσπαισ</sup> καὶ <sup>εἰσπαισ</sup> μάτην <sup>εἰσπαισ</sup> θυμουμένην.

870

875

880

νῦν οὖν ἐπαινῶ, σωφρονεῖν τέ μοι δοκεῖς  
 κῆδος τόδ' ἡμῖν προσλαβών, ἐγὼ δ' ἄφρων, 885  
 ἢ χρὴν μετεῖναι τῶνδε τῶν βουλευμάτων  
 καὶ συμπεραίνειν καὶ παρεστάναι λέχει,  
 νύμφην τε κηδεύουσάν ἤδεσθαι σέθεν.  
 ἀλλ' ἐσμέν οἷόν ἐσμεν, οὐκ ἐρῶ κακόν,  
 γυναικες· οὐκ οὖν χρὴν σ' ὁμοιοῦσθαι κακοῖς, 890  
 οὐδ' ἀντιτείνειν νηπὶ ἀντὶ νηπίων.  
 παριέμεσθα καὶ φαμεν κακῶς φρονεῖν  
 τότ', ἀλλ' ἄμεινον νῦν βεβουλεύμαι τόδε.  
 ὦ τέκνα τέκνα, δεῦτε, λείπετε στέγας,  
 ἐξέλθετ', ἀσπασασθε καὶ προσεῖπατε 895  
 πατέρα μεθ' ἡμῶν καὶ διαλλαχθῆθ' ἅμα  
 τῆς πρόσθεν ἔχθρας εἰς φίλους μητρὸς μέτα·  
 σπονδαὶ γὰρ ἡμῖν καὶ μεθέστηκεν χόλος.  
 λάβεσθε χειρὸς δεξιᾶς. οἴμοι κακῶν·  
 ὥς ἐννοοῦμαι δὴ τι τῶν κεκρυμμένων. 900  
 ἄρ', ὦ τέκν', οὕτω καὶ πολλὸν ζῶντες χρόνον  
 φίλην ὀρέξεται ὠλένην; τάλαιν' ἐγώ,  
 ὥς ἀρτίδακρυς εἰμι καὶ φόβου πλέα.  
 χρόνῳ δέ νεικος πατρὸς ἐξαιρουμένη 905  
 ὅψιν τέρειναι τήνδ' ἐπλησα δακρύων.

## ΧΟΡΟΣ.

κάμοι κατ' ὅσων χλῶρον ὠρμήθη δάκρυ·  
 καὶ μὴ προβαίῃ μείζον ἢ τὸ νῦν κακόν.

## ΙΑΣΩΝ.

αἰνῶ, γύναι, τάδ', οὐδ' ἐκείνα μέμφομαι·



εἰκὸς γὰρ ὀργὰς θῆλυ ποιεῖσθαι γένος,  
 γάμους παρεμπολῶντός ἀλλοίους, ποσει. 910  
 ἀλλ' εἰς τὸ λῶον σὸν μεθέστηκεν κέαρ,  
 ἐγνώσ δὲ τὴν νικῶσαν ἀλλὰ τῷ χρόνῳ  
 βουλήν γυναικὸς ἔργα ταῦτα σῶφρονος.  
 ὑμῶν δέ, παῖδες, οὐκ ἀφροντίστως πατήρ  
 πολλὴν ἔθηκε σὺν θεοῖς προμηθίαν. 915  
 οἶμαι γὰρ ὑμᾶς, τῆσδε γῆς Κορινθίας  
 τὰ πρῶτ' ἔδεσθαι σὺν κασιγνήτοις ἔτι.  
 ἀλλ' αὐξάνεσθε· τᾶλλα δ' ἐξεργάζεται  
 πατήρ τε καὶ θεῶν ὅστις ἐστὶν εὐμένης.  
 ἰδοίμι δ' ὑμᾶς εὐτραφεὶς ἡβης τέλος 920  
 μολόντας, ἐχθρῶν τῶν ἐμῶν ὑπερτέρους.  
 αὕτη, τί χλῶροις δακρύοις τέγγεις κόρας  
 στρέψασα λευκὴν ἐμπαλιν παρηίδα,  
 κοῦκ ἀσμένη τόνδ' ἐξ ἐμοῦ δέχει λόγον;

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

οὐδέν· τέκνων τῶνδ' ἐννοοῦμένη πέρι. 925

ΙΑΣΩΝ.

θάρσει νυν· εὖ γὰρ .. τῶνδε θήσομαι [πέρι].

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

δράσω τάδ'· οὗτοι σοῖς ἀπιστήσω λόγοις·  
 γυνὴ δὲ θῆλυ καπὶ δακρύοις ἔφυ.

ΙΑΣΩΝ.

τί δή, τάλαινα, τοῖσδ' ἐπιστένεις τέκνοις;

## ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

ἔτικτον αὐτούς· <sup>te</sup> <sup>ξίμ</sup> ζήν δ' ὅτ' ἐξεύχου τέκνα, 930  
 εἰσῆλθέ μ' <sup>εἰς</sup> οἶκτος εἰ <sup>will be</sup> γενήσεται τάδε.  
 ἀλλ' ὦνπερ οὐνεκ' εἰς ἐμούς ἦκεις λόγους,  
 τὰ μὲν λέλεκται, τῶν δ' ἐγὼ μνησθήσομαι.  
 ἐπεὶ τυράννοισ γῆς μ' ἀπθστεῖλαι δοκεῖ, <sup>seems</sup>  
 καμοὶ τάδ' ἐστὶ λῶστα, γινώσκω καλῶς, 935  
 μήτ' ἐμποδὼν σοὶ μήτε <sup>king</sup> κοιράνοισ χθονὸς  
 ναίειν· δοκῶ γὰρ <sup>be</sup> δύσμενῆς εἶναι δόμοις·  
 ἡμεῖς μὲν ἐκ γῆς τῆσδ' <sup>de</sup> ἀπαίρομεν φυγῇ,  
 παῖδες δ' ὅπως <sup>by</sup> ἂν <sup>by</sup> ἐκτραφῶσι σῇ χερὶ,  
 αἰτοῦ Κρέοντα τήνδε μὴ φεύγειν χθόνα. 940

## ΙΑΣΩΝ.

οὐκ οἶδ' ἂν εἰ πείσαιμι, πειρᾶσθαι δὲ χρή.

## ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

σὺ δ' ἀλλὰ <sup>2</sup> σὴν <sup>1</sup> κέλευσον <sup>4</sup> αἰτεῖσθαι <sup>5</sup> πατρὸς  
 γυνᾶϊκα <sup>3</sup> παῖδας <sup>6</sup> τήνδε <sup>7</sup> μὴ φεύγειν χθόνα.

## ΙΑΣΩΝ.

<sup>αἰτεῖ</sup> μάλιστα, καὶ <sup>1</sup> πείσειν <sup>2</sup> γε <sup>3</sup> δοξάζω <sup>4</sup> σφ' ἐγώ.

## ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

εἴπερ <sup>1</sup> γυναικῶν <sup>2</sup> ἐστὶ <sup>3</sup> τῶν <sup>4</sup> ἄλλων <sup>5</sup> μία. 945  
 συλλήψομαι δὲ τοῦδέ σοι καὶ γὰρ πόνου·  
 πέμψω γὰρ αὐτῇ δῶρ', ἃ καλλιστεύεται  
 τῶν νῦν ἐν ἀνθρώποισιν, οἶδ' ἐγώ, πολύ,  
 [λεπτὸν τε πέπλον καὶ πλόκον χρυσήλατον]

## ΑΙΓΕΥΣ.

πολλῶν ἑκατι τήνδε σοι δοῦναι χάριν,  
 γύναι, πρόθυμός εἰμι, πρῶτα μὲν θεῶν, 720  
 ἔπειτα παίδων ὧν ἐπαγγέλλει γονάς.  
 εἰς τοῦτο γὰρ δὴ φροῦδός εἰμι πᾶς ἐγώ.  
 οὕτω δ' ἔχει μοι· σοῦ μὲν ἐλθούσης, χθόνα,  
 πειράσομαί σου προξενεῖν, δίκαιος ὢν.  
 [τοσόνδε μέντοι σοι προσημαίνω, γύναι· 725  
 ἐκ τῆσδε μὲν γῆς οὐ σ' ἄγειν βουλήσομαι,  
 αὐτὴ δ' εἴανπερ εἰς ἐμούς ἐλθῆς δόμους,  
 μενεῖς ἄστυλος κοῦ σε μὴ μέθῳ τινι.]  
 ἐκ τῆσδε δ' αὐτὴ γῆς ἀπαλλάσσου πόδα·  
 ἀναίτιος γὰρ καὶ ξένοισι εἶναι θέλω. 730

## ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

ἔσται τάδ'· ἀλλὰ πίστις εἰ γένοιτό μοι  
 τούτων, ἔχοιμ' ἂν πάντα πρὸς σέθεν καλῶς.

## ΑΙΓΕΥΣ.

μῶν οὐ πέποιθας; ἢ τί σοι τὸ δυσχερές;

## ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

πέποιθα· Πελίου δ' ἐχθρός ἐστί μοι δόμος  
 Κρέων τε. τούτοις δ', ὄρκίοισι μὲν ζυγείς, 735  
 ἄγουσιν οὐ μεθεῖν ἂν ἐκ γαίας ἐμέ·  
 λόγοις δὲ συμβὰς καὶ θεῶν ἀνώμοτος,  
 φίλος γένοι' ἂν κάπικηρυκεύματα  
 τάχ' ἂν πίθοι σε· τὰμὰ μὲν γὰρ ἀσθενῇ,  
 τοῖς δ' ὄλβος ἔστι καὶ δόμος τυραννικός. 740

ΑΙΓΕΥΣ.

πολλὴν ἔλεξας, ὦ γύναι, προ<sup>μνησθ</sup>ήθιαν·  
 ἀλλ' εἰ<sup>δο</sup>δοκεῖ σοι, δρᾶν τάδ' οὐκ ἀφίσταμαι.  
 ἐμοί<sup>τι</sup> τε γὰρ τάδ' ἐστὶν ἀσφαλέστατα,  
 σκῆψίν<sup>τιν'</sup> τιν' ἐχθροῖς σοῖς<sup>ἐ</sup>χοντα δεικνύναι,  
 τὸ σόν<sup>τ'</sup> ἄρα<sup>ρε</sup> μᾶλλον· ἐξήγου<sup>θε</sup> θεούς.

745

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

ὄμνυ<sup>πε</sup> πέδον Γῆς πατέρα θ' Ἥλιον πατρὸς  
 τοῦμοῦ θεῶν<sup>τε</sup> συντιθεῖς ἅπαν γένος.

ΑΙΓΕΥΣ.

τί χρήμα δράσειν ἢ τί μὴ δράσειν; λέγε.

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

μήτ' αὐτὸς ἐκ γῆς σῆς ἐμ' ἐκβαλεῖν ποτε,  
 μήτ' ἄλλος ἦν τις τῶν ἐμῶν ἐχθρῶν ἄγειν  
 χρήζῃ, μεθήσειν ζῶν ἐκούσιῳ τρόπῳ.

750

ΑΙΓΕΥΣ.

ὄμνυμι Γαῖαν Ἥλιον θ' ἄγνόν σέβας  
 θεούς τε πάντας ἐμμενεῖν ἅ σου κλύω.

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

ἄρκει· τί δ' ὄρκῳ τῷδε μὴ ῥυμένων πάθοις;

ΑΙΓΕΥΣ.

ἅ τοῖσι δυσσέβοῦσι γίνεται βροτῶν.

755

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

οὐ τοῦτό σ' εἶχεν, ἀλλὰ βάρβαρον λέχος  
πρὸς γῆρας οὐκ εὐδοξὸν ἐξεβαίνει σοι.

ΙΑΣΩΝ.

εὖ νῦν τόδ' ἴσθι, μὴ γυναικὸς οὐνεκα  
γῆμαί με λέκτρα βασιλέων ἅ νῦν ἔχω,  
ἀλλ', ὥσπερ εἶπον καὶ πάρος, σῶσαι θέλων 595  
σὲ καὶ τέκνοισι τοῖς ἐμοῖς ὁμοσπόρους  
φῦσαι τυράννους παῖδας, ἔρυμα δώμασιν.

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

μή μοι γένοιτο λυπρὸς εὐδαίμων βίος,  
μηδ' ὀλβος ὅστις τὴν ἐμὴν κνίξοι φρένα.

ΙΑΣΩΝ.

οἶσθ' ὥς μετεύξει καὶ σοφωτέρα φανεῖ;  
τὰ χρηστὰ μή σοι λυπρὰ φαινέσθω ποτέ,  
μηδ' εὐτυχούσα, δυστυχῆς εἶναι δόκει. 600

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

ὑβρίζ', ἐπειδὴ σοὶ μὲν ἔστ' ἀποστροφή,  
ἐγὼ δ' ἔρημος τήνδε φευξοῦμαι χθόνα.

ΙΑΣΩΝ.

αὐτὴ τάδ' εἶλον· μηδέν' ἄλλον αἰτιῶ. 605

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

τί δρῶσα; μῶν γαμοῦσα καὶ προδοῦσά σε;

παῖδας δὲ μείναι τοὺς ἐμοὺς αἰτήσομαι, 780  
 οὐχ ὡς λιποῦσ' ἂν πολεμίας ἐπὶ χθονὸς  
 ἐχθροῖσι παῖδας τοὺς ἐμοὺς καθυβρίσαι, <sup>†</sup> <sup>— 2nd</sup>  
 ἀλλ' ὡς δόλοισι παῖδα βασιλέως κτάνω.  
 πέμψω γὰρ αὐτοὺς δῶρ' ἔχοντας ἐν χεροῖν  
 νύμφη φέροντας, τήνδε μὴ φεύγειν χθόνα, 785  
 λεπτόν τε πέπλον καὶ πλόκον χρυσήλατον·  
 κἄνπερ λαβοῦσα κόσμον ἀμφιθῇ χροῖ,  
 κακῶς ὀλεῖται πᾶς θ' ὅς ἂν θίγῃ κόρης·  
 τοιοῖσδε κρίσω φαρμάκοις δωρήματα.  
 ἐνταῦθα μέντοι τόνδ' ἀπαλλάσσω λόγον· 790  
 ὧμῶσα δ' οἶον ἔργον ἔστ' ἐργαστέον  
 τοῦντεῦθεν ἡμῖν· τέκνα γὰρ κατακτενῶ  
 τᾶμ'· οὔτις ἔστιν ὅστις ἐξαιρήσεται·  
 δόμον τε πάντα συγχέασ' Ἰάσονος  
 ἔξειμι γαίης, φιλτάτων παίδων φόνον 795  
 φεύγουσα καὶ τλᾶσ' ἔργον ἀνοσιώτατον.  
 οὐ γὰρ γελάσθαι τλητὸν ἐξ ἐχθρῶν, φίλαι.  
 ἴτω· τί μοι ζῆν κέρδος; οὔτε μοι πατρίς  
 οὔτ' οἶκος ἔστιν οὔτ' ἀποστροφὴ κακῶν.  
 ἡμάρτανον τόθ', ἡνίκ' ἐξελίμπανον < 800  
 δόμους πατρώους, ἀνδρὸς Ἑλληνος λόγοις  
 πεισθεῖς, ὅς ἡμῖν σὺν θεῷ τίσει δίκην.  
 οὔτ' ἐξ ἐμοῦ γὰρ παῖδας ὄψεται ποτε  
 ζῶντας τὸ λοιπὸν οὔτε τῆς νεοζύγου  
 νύμφης τεκνώσει παῖδ', ἐπεὶ κακὴν κακῶς 805  
 θανεῖν σφ' ἀνάγκη τοῖς ἐμοῖσι φαρμάκοις.  
 μηδεῖς με φαύλην κάσθενῇ νομιζέτω  
 μηδ' ἡσυχαίαν, ἀλλὰ θατέρου τρόπου,

νύμφευ· ἴσως γάρ· σὺν θεῷ δ' εἰρήσεται· 625  
 γαμείς τοιοῦτον ὥστε σ' ἀρνέσθαι γάμον.

## ΧΟΡΟΣ.

Ἐρωτες ὑπὲρ μὲν ἄγαν ἐλθόντες οὐκ εὐδοξίαν <sup>στρ. α'.</sup>  
 οὐδ' ἀρετὰν παρέδωκαν ἀνδράσιν· εἰ δ' ἄλις ἔλθοι  
 Κύπρις, οὐκ ἄλλα θεὸς εὐχαρίς οὕτως. 631  
 μήποτ', ὦ δέσποιν', ἐπ' ἐμοὶ χρυσέων τόξων ἐφείης  
 ἡμέρῳ χρίσας ἀφυκτον οἰστόν.

<sup>ἀντ. α'.</sup>  
 στέργοι δέ με σωφροσύνα, δῶρημα κάλλιστον θεῶν·  
 μηδέ ποτ' ἀμφιλόγους ὀργὰς ἀκόρεστά τε νείκη,  
 θυμὸν ἐκπλήξας ἑτέροις ἐπὶ λέκτροις, 639  
 προσβάλαι δεινὰ Κύπρις, ἀπτολέμους δ' εὐνὰς σεβί-  
 ζουσ'·  
 ὀξύφρων κρίνοι λέχη γυναικῶν.

<sup>στρ. β'.</sup>  
 ὦ πατρίς, ὦ δώματα, μὴ  
 δῆτ' ἀπολις γενοίμαν  
 τὸν ἀμηχανίας ἔχουσα δυσπέρατον αἰῶν', οἰκτρότατον  
 ἀχέων. 647

θανάτῳ θανάτῳ πάρος δαμείην  
 ἀμέραντάνδ' ἐξανύσασα· μοχθῶν δ' οὐκ ἄλλος ὑπερθεν ἡ  
 γᾶς πατρίας στέρεσθαι. 652

<sup>ἀντ. β'.</sup>  
 εἶδομεν, οὐκ ἐξ ἑτέρων  
 μῦθον ἔχω φράσασθαι·  
 σὲ γὰρ οὐ πόλις, οὐ φίλων τις ᾧκτισεν παθοῦσαν  
 δεινότατα παθέων. 655  
 ἀχάριστος ὅλοιθ', ὅτῳ πάρεστι

καὶ θεῶν παῖδες μακάρων, ἱεράς  
 χώρας ἀπορθητοῦ τ' ἀποφέρβοντο κλείνοτάτάν σο-

825

φίαν,  
 αἰεὶ διὰ λάμπροτάτου βαίνοντες ἀβρῶς αἰθέρος, ἔνθα  
 ποθ' ἄγνασθε

έννέα Πιερίδας Μούσας λέγουσι  
 ξάνθαν Ἀρμονίαν φυτεῦσαι

833

τοῦ καλλιναίου τ' ἀπὸ Κηφισοῦ ῥοὰς  
 τὰν Κύπριν κλήζουσιν ἀφυσσάμεναν  
 χώραν . . . . . καταπνεῦσαι μέτριας ἀνέμων [αὔρας].  
 αἰεὶ δ' ἐπιβαλλομένην χαίταισιν εὐώδη ῥοδέων πλόκον  
 ἀνθέων

ἀντ. α΄.

836

τῇ σοφίᾳ παρέδρους πέμπειν ἔρωτας,  
 παντοίας ἀρετᾶς ξυνέργους.

845

πῶς οὖν ἱερῶν ποταμῶν

στρ. β΄.

ἢ πόλις ἢ φίλων

πόμπιμός σε χώρα

τὰν παιδολετειραν ἔξει,

τὰν οὐχ ὅσιν μετ' ἄλλων;

850

σκεῖψαι τεκέων πλάγαν;

σκεῖψαι φόνον οἶον αἶρει.

μή, πρὸς γονάτων, σε πάντως

πάντῃ σ' ἱκετεύομεν,

τέκνα φονεύσης.

855

πόθεν θράσος ἢ φρενὸς ἢ

ἀντ. β΄.

χειρί, τέκνον, σέθεν

καρδία τε λήψει,



δεινὰν <sup>bringing</sup> προσάγουσα τόλμαν; <sup>had. I. daring</sup>  
 πῶς δ' ὄμματα <sup>having darted</sup> προσβαλούσα <sup>860</sup>  
 τέκνοις ἄδακρυν μοῖραν <sup>perpetration</sup>  
 σχῆσεις φόγου; οὐ δυνάσει,  
 παίδων <sup>beasts</sup> ἱκετὰν <sup>fall</sup> πιτνόντων,  
<sup>to involve</sup> τεγξαι <sup>with</sup> χέρα φοινίαν  
 τλαμονι <sup>865</sup> θυμῷ.

## ΙΑΣΩΝ.

Ἦκω <sup>allegorically</sup> κελευσθεῖς· καὶ γὰρ οὔσα <sup>in vain</sup> δυσμενῆς  
 οὕτ' ἀμάρτοις <sup>870</sup> τοῦδέ γ', ἀλλ' ἀκούσομαι  
 τί χρῆμα βούλει καινὸν ἐξ ἐμοῦ, γύναι.

## ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

Ἰᾶσον, αἰτοῦμαί σε <sup>875</sup> τῶν ξιρημένων  
 συγγνώμον' εἶναι· τὰς δ' ἐμὰς ὀργὰς φέρειν  
 εἰκός σ', ἐπεὶ νῶν <sup>have done</sup> πόλλ' ὑπείργασται φίλα.  
 ἐγὼ δ' ἐμαυτῇ <sup>because</sup> διὰ λόγων <sup>and</sup> ἀφικόμην,  
 καλοῖδορρησα· <sup>without</sup> σχετλία, τί μαίνομαι  
 καὶ δυσμεναίνω <sup>880</sup> τοῖσι βουλεύουσιν εὔ,  
 ἐχθρὰ δὲ γαίας <sup>and</sup> κοῖρανόις <sup>and</sup> καθίσταμαι  
 πόσει θ', ὅς ἡμῖν <sup>and</sup> δρᾷ <sup>and</sup> τὰ <sup>and</sup> συμφορώτατα,  
 γήμας τύραννον καὶ κασιγνήτους τέκνοις  
 ἐμοῖς φυτεύων; οὐκ ἀπαλλαχθήσομαι  
 θυμοῦ; τί πάσχω, θεῶν <sup>885</sup> ποριζόντων καλῶς;  
 οὐκ εἰσὶ μέν μοι παῖδες, οἶδα δὲ χθόνα  
 φεύγοντας ἡμᾶς καὶ σπανίζοντας φίλων;  
 ταῦτ' ἐννοήσας ἡσθόμην <sup>890</sup> ἀβουλίαν  
 πολλὴν ἔχουσα καὶ μάτην θυμουμένη.

νῦν οὖν ἐπαινῶ, σωφρονεῖν τέ μοι δοκεῖς  
 κῆδος τόδ' ἡμῖν προσλαβών, ἐγὼ δ' ἄφρων, 885  
 ἢ χρεὴν μετεῖναι τῶνδε τῶν βουλευμάτων  
 καὶ συμπεραίνειν καὶ παρεστάναι λέχει,  
 νύμφην τε κηδεύουσάν ἤδεσθαι σέθεν.  
 ἀλλ' ἐσμέν οἷόν ἐσμεν, οὐκ ἐρῶ κακόν,  
 γυναικες· οὐκ οὖν χρεὴν σ' ὁμοιοῦσθαι κακοῖς, 890  
 οὐδ' ἀντιτείνειν νηπὶ ἀπὸ νηπίων.  
 παριέμεσθα καὶ φαμεν κακῶς φρονεῖν  
 τότ', ἀλλ' ἄμεινον νῦν βεβουλεύμαι τόδε.  
 ὦ τέκνα τέκνα, δεῦτε, λείπετε στέγας,  
 ἐξέλθετ', ἀσπασάσθε καὶ προσεῖπατέ 895  
 πατέρα μεθ' ἡμῶν καὶ διαλλαχθήθ' ἅμα  
 τῆς πρόσθεν ἔχθρας εἰς φίλους μητρὸς μέτα·  
 σπονδαὶ γὰρ ἡμῖν καὶ μεθέστηκεν χόλος.  
 λάβεσθε χειρὸς δεξιᾶς. οἴμοι κακῶν·  
 ὥς ἐννοοῦμαι δὴ τι τῶν κεκρυμμένων. 900  
 ἄρ', ὦ τέκν', οὕτω καὶ πολλὸν ζῶντες χρόνον  
 φίλην ὀρέξεται ὠλένην; τάλαιν' ἐγώ,  
 ὥς ἀρτίδακρυς εἰμι καὶ φόβου πλέα.  
 χρόνῳ δὲ νεῖκος πατρὸς ἐξαιρουμένη 905  
 ὄψιν τέρεϊναν τήνδ' ἐπλησα δακρύων.

## ΧΟΡΟΣ.

καὶ μοὶ κατ' ὅσων χλῶρον ὠρμήθη δάκρυ·  
 καὶ μὴ προβαίῃ μείζον ἢ τὸ νῦν κακόν.

## ΙΑΣΩΝ.

αἰνῶ, γύναι, τάδ', οὐδ' ἐκεῖνα μέμφομαι·

εἰκὸς γὰρ ὀργὰς θῆλυ ποιεῖσθαι γένος,  
 γάμους παρεμπολῶντος ἀλλοίους, ποσει. 910  
 ἀλλ' εἰς τὸ λῶον σὸν μεθέστηκεν κέαρ,  
 ἐγνώσ δὲ τὴν δικώσαν ἀλλὰ τῷ χρόνῳ  
 βουλήν γυναικὸς ἔργα ταῦτα σῶφρονος.  
 ὑμῶν δέ, παῖδες, οὐκ ἀφροντίστως πατήρ  
 πολλὴν ἔθηκε σὺν θεοῖς πρόμηθίαν. 915  
 οἶμαι γὰρ ὑμᾶς τῆσδε γῆς Κορινθίας  
 τὰ πρῶτ' εἶδ' εἶσθαι σὺν κασιγνήτοις ἔτι.  
 ἀλλ' αὐξάνεσθε· τᾶλλα δ' ἐξεργάζεται  
 πατήρ τε καὶ θεῶν ὅστις ἐστὶν εὐμεινής.  
 ἰδοίμι δ' ὑμᾶς εὐτραφεὶς ἡβης τέλος 920  
 μολόντας, ἐχθρῶν τῶν ἐμῶν ὑπερτέρους.  
 αὐτὴ, τί χλῶροισ' ἀδακρύοις τέγγεις κόρας  
 στρέψασα λευκὴν ἔμπαλιν παρηίδα,  
 κοῦκ ἀσμένη τόνδ' ἐξ ἐμοῦ δέχει λόγον;

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

οὐδέν· τέκνων τῶνδ' ἐννοοῦμένη πέρι. 925

ΙΑΣΩΝ.

θάρσει νυν· εὖ γὰρ .. τῶνδε θήσομαι [πέρι].

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

δράσω τάδ'· οὗτοι σοῖς ἀπιστήσω λόγοις·  
 γυνὴ δὲ θῆλυ καπὶ δακρύοις ἔφυ.

ΙΑΣΩΝ.

τί δή, τάλαινα, τοῖσδ' ἐπιστένεις τέκνοις;

## ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

ἔτικτον αὐτούς· <sup>te live</sup> ζῆν δ' ὅτ' ἐξεύχου τέκνα, 930  
 εἰσῆλθέ μ' <sup>quid</sup> οἶκτος εἰ <sup>will be mine</sup> γενήσεται τάδε.  
 ἀλλ' ὦνπερ οὐνεκ' εἰς ἐμούς ἦκεις λόγους,  
 τὰ μὲν λέλεκται, τῶν δ' ἐγὼ μνησθήσομαι.  
 ἐπεὶ τυράννοις γῆς μ' ἀπῷστέϊλαι δοκεῖ, 935  
 κάμοι τάδ' ἐστὶ λῶστα, γινώσκω καλῶς,  
 μήτ' ἐμποδὼν σοὶ μήτε <sup>king</sup> κοιράνοις χθονὸς  
 ναίειν· δοκῶ γὰρ <sup>be my</sup> δυσμενῆς εἶναι δόμοις·  
 ἡμεῖς μὲν ἐκ γῆς τῆσδ' ἀπαίρομεν <sup>de her</sup> φυγῇ,  
 παῖδες δ' ὅπως <sup>by her, let us</sup> ἂν ἐκτραφῶσι σῇ <sup>by</sup> χερὶ,  
 αἰτοῦ Κρέοντα τήνδε μὴ φεύγειν χθόνα. 940

## ΙΑΣΩΝ.

οὐκ οἶδ' ἂν εἰ πείσαιμι, πειρᾶσθαι δὲ χρή.

## ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

σὺ δ' ἀλλὰ <sup>2</sup> σὴν <sup>1</sup> κέλευσον <sup>4</sup> αἰτεῖσθαι <sup>5</sup> πατρὸς  
<sup>3</sup> γυναικα <sup>6</sup> παῖδας <sup>7</sup> τήνδε μὴ φεύγειν χθόνα.

## ΙΑΣΩΝ.

<sup>οὐκ οἶδ' ἂν</sup> μάλιστα, καὶ <sup>1</sup> πείσειν <sup>2</sup> γε <sup>3</sup> δοξάζω <sup>4</sup> σφ' ἐγώ.

## ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

εἵπερ <sup>1</sup> γυναικῶν <sup>2</sup> ἐστὶ <sup>3</sup> τῶν <sup>4</sup> ἄλλων <sup>5</sup> μία. 945  
 συλλήψομαι δὲ τοῦδέ σοι <sup>6</sup> καγὰ <sup>7</sup> πόνου·  
 πέμψω γὰρ αὐτῇ <sup>8</sup> δῶρ', <sup>9</sup> ἃ <sup>10</sup> καλλιστεύεται  
 τῶν νῦν ἐν ἀνθρώποισιν, οἶδ' ἐγώ, πολύ,  
 [λεπτὸν τε πέπλον καὶ πλόκον χρυσήλατον]

πάντες δέ σ' ἤσθοντ' οὔσαν Ἑλληνες σοφὴν  
καὶ δόξαν ἔσχες· εἰ δὲ γῆς ἐπ' ἐσχάτοις 540  
ὄροισιν ὤκεις, οὐκ ἂν ἦν λόγος σέθεν.

εἷη δ' ἔμοιγε μήτε χρυσὸς ἐν δόμοις  
μήτ' Ὀρφέως κάλλιον ὑμνῆσαι μέλος,  
εἰ μὴ πίσσημός ἢ τύχη γένοιτό μοι.

τοσαῦτα μέντοι τῶν ἐμῶν πόνων πέρι 545

ἔλεξ'· ἀμίλλαν γὰρ σὺ προύθηκας λόγων.

οὐ μὲν γὰρ αἰὲς εἰς γάμους μοι βασιλικούς ὠνειδίσας, 550  
ἐν τῷδε δείξω πρῶτα μὲν σοφὸς γεγώς,

ἔπειτα σῶφρων, εἶτα σοὶ μέγας φίλος  
καὶ παισὶ τοῖς ἐμοῖσιν· ἀλλ' ἔχ' ἡσυχος. 555

ἐπεὶ μετέστην δεῦρ' Ἰωλκίας χθονὸς  
πολλὰς ἐφέλκων συμφορὰς ἀμηχάνους,  
τί τοῦδ' ἂν εὐρημ' εὖρον εὐτυχέστερον,  
ἢ παῖδα γῆμαι βασιλέως φυγὰς γεγώς;

οὐχ, ἢ σὺ κνίζεις, σὸν μὲν ἐχθαίρων λέχος, 555

καινῆς δὲ νύμφης ἱμέρω πεπληγμένος,  
οὐδ' εἰς ἀμίλλαν πολύτεκνον σπουδὴν ἔχων·

ἄλῃς γὰρ οἱ γεγῶτες, οὐδὲ μέμφομαι.

ἀλλ' ὥς, τὸ μὲν μέγιστον, οἰκοῖμεν καλῶς  
καὶ μὴ σπανιζοίμεσθα, γιννώσκων ὅτι 560

πένητα φεύγει πᾶς τις ἐκποδὼν φίλος,  
παῖδας δὲ θρέψαιμ' ἀξίως δόμων ἐμῶν,

σπείρας τ' ἀδελφούς τοῖσιν ἐκ σέθεν τέκνοις  
εἰς ταῦτ' ἰεῖν καὶ ξυναρτήσας γένος

εὐδαιμονοίην. σοί τε γὰρ παίδων τί δεῖ; 565

ἐμοί τε λύει τοῖσι μέλλουσιν τέκνοις

τὰ ζῶντ' ὀνῆσαι. μῶν βεβούλευμαι κακῶς;

## ΧΟΡΟΣ.

Νῦν ἐλπίδες οὐκέτι μοι παίδων ζόας, <sup>hope! life</sup> στρ. α'.

οὐκέτι · <sup>παραγο</sup> στείχουσιν γὰρ ἐς φόνον ἤδη.

δέξεται νύμφα χρυσέων ἀναδεσμῶν <sup>marital</sup>

δέξεται <sup>destructive</sup> δύστανος ἄταν <sup>!</sup>

ξανθᾷ δ' ἀμφὶ κόμα θήσει τὸν Ἄϊδα <sup>deadly</sup> 980

κόσμον αὐτὰ χερσὶν λαβοῦσα.

πείσει <sup>beauty</sup> χάρις ἀμβρόσιος τ' <sup>divine</sup> αὐγὰ πέπλον <sup>gold-wreath</sup> 985

χρυσότευκτόν τε στέφανον περιθέσθαι · <sup>with the hand</sup>

νερτέροις δ' ἤδη πάρα νυμφοκομήσει.

τοῖον εἰς ἔρκος <sup>net</sup> πεσεῖται

καὶ μοῖραν θανάτου δύστανος · ἄταν δ'

οὐχ ὑπερφεύζεται <sup>escape</sup> . . .

σὺ δ', ὦ τάλαν, ὦ κακόννυμφε κηδεμῶν <sup>unhappy woman</sup> τυράννων, <sup>!</sup> στρ. β'. 990

παισὶν οὐ κατειδῶς <sup>!</sup>

ὄλεθρον <sup>death</sup> βιοτᾷ <sup>!</sup> προσάγεις ἀλόχῳ τε σᾷ <sup>!</sup> στυγερόν θά-  
νατον.

δύστανε, μοίρας ὅσον παροίχει.

995 .

μετάστένομαι δὲ σὸν ἄλγος, ὦ τάλαινα παίδων <sup>lament for</sup> ἀντ. β'.

μᾶτερ, ἃ φονεύσεις <sup>!</sup>

τέκνα νυμφιδίῳ <sup>!</sup> ἔνεκεν <sup>!</sup> λεχέων, ἃ <sup>!</sup> σοὶ <sup>!</sup> προλιπὼν <sup>!</sup> ἀνό-

μως

1000

ἄλλα ξυνοικεῖ πόσις συνεύνῳ.

## ΠΑΙΔΑΓΩΓΟΣ.

Δέσποιν', ἀφείνται <sup>!</sup> παῖδες οἶδε σοι φυγῆς,

καὶ δῶρα νύμφῃ βασιλῖς ἀσμένη χεροῖν  
ἐδέξατ'· εἰρήνη δὲ τὰ κεῖθεν τέκνοις.

ἔα.

τί συγχυθεῖς ἔστηκας ἥνικ' εὐτυχεῖς;  
[τί σὴν ἔτρεψας ἔμπαλιν παρηίδα  
κοῦκ ἀσμένη τόνδ' ἐξ ἐμοῦ δέχει λόγον;]

1005

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

αἰαῖ.

ΠΑΙΔΑΓΩΓΟΣ.

τάδ' οὐ συνωδὰ τοῖσιν ἐξηγγελμένοις.

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

αἰαῖ μάλ' αὖθις.

ΠΑΙΔΑΓΩΓΟΣ.

μῶν τιν' ἀγγέλλων τύχην  
οὐκ οἶδα, δόξης δ' ἐσφάλην εὐαγγέλου;

1010

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

ἤγγειλας οἶ' ἤγγειλας· οὐ σὲ μέμφομαι.

ΠΑΙΔΑΓΩΓΟΣ.

τί δὴ κατηφείς ὄμμα καὶ δακρυρροεῖς;

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

πολλή μ' ἀνάγκη, πρέσβυ· ταῦτα γὰρ θεοὶ  
καγὼ κακῶς φρονούσ' ἐμήχανησάμην.

ΠΑΙΔΑΓΩΓΟΣ.

θάρσει· κάτει τοι καὶ σὺ πρὸς τέκνων ἔτι.

1015

## ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

<sup>send an</sup> ἄλλους κατάξω πρόσθεν ἢ τάλαιν' ἐγώ.

## ΠΑΙΔΑΓΩΓΟΣ.

<sup>not</sup> οὔτοι <sup>near</sup> μόνη σὺ σῶν ἀπέξυγης τέκνων.  
<sup>with</sup> κούφως <sup>near</sup> φέρειν χρή θνητὸν ὄντα συμφοράς.

## ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

δράσω τάδ'. ἀλλὰ βαῖνε δωμάτων ἔσω  
καὶ παισὶ πόρσυν' οἷα χρή καθ' ἡμέραν. 1020  
ὦ τέκνα τέκνα, σφῶν μὲν ἔστι δὴ πόλις = *Hades*  
καὶ δῶμ', ἐν ᾧ λιπόντες ἀθλίαν ἐμὲ  
οἰκήσεται αἰεὶ μητρὸς ἐστερημένοι.  
ἐγὼ δ' ἐς ἄλλην γαῖαν εἶμι δὴ φυγὰς,  
πρὶν σφῶν ὄνασθαι κάπιδεῖν εὐδαίμονας, 1025  
πρὶν λέκτρα καὶ γυναῖκα καὶ γαμηλίους  
εὐνάς ἀγῆλαι λαμπάδας τ' ἀνασχεθεῖν.  
ὦ δυστάλαινα τῆς ἐμῆς αὐθαδίας.  
ἄλλως ἄρ' ὑμᾶς, ὦ τέκν', ἐξεθρεψάμην,  
ἄλλως δ' ἐμοχθουν καὶ κατέξανθην πόνοισι, 1030  
στερρὰς ἐνεγκούσ' ἐν τόκοις ἀλγυδόνας.  
ἤ μήν ποθ' ἢ δύστηνος εἶχον ἐλπίδας  
πολλὰς ἐν ὑμῖν γηροβοσκήσειν τ' ἐμὲ  
καὶ καθανοῦσαν χερσὶν εὖ περιστελεῖν,  
ζηλωτὸν ἀνθρώποισι· νῦν δ' ὄλωλε δὴ 1035  
γλυκεία φροντίς. σφῶν γὰρ ἐστερημένη  
λυπρὸν διάξω βίοτον ἀλγυεινόν τ' ἐμοί.  
ὑμεῖς δὲ μητέρ' οὐκέτ' ὄμμασιν φίλοις



ὄψεσθ', ἐς ἄλλο σχῆμ' ἀποστάντες βίου.  
 φεῦ φεῦ· τί προσδέρκεσθέ μ' ὄμμασιν, τέκνα; 1040  
 τί προσγελάτε τὸν πανῦστατον γέλων;  
 αἰαῖ· τί δράσω; καρδία γὰρ οἵχεται,  
 γυναῖκες, ὅμῃα φαῖδρον ὥς εἶδον τέκνων.  
 οὐκ ἂν δυναίμην· χαιρέτω βουλευμάτα  
 τὰ πρόσθεν· ἄξω παῖδας ἐκ γαίας ἐμούς. 1045  
 τί δεῖ με πατέρα τῶνδε τοῖς τούτων κακοῖς  
 λυποῦσθαι αὐτὴν δις τόσα κτᾶσθαι κακά;  
 οὐ δῆτ' ἔγωγε. χαιρέτω βουλευμάτα.  
 καίτοι τί πάσχω; βούλομαι γέλῳτ' ὀφλεῖν  
 ἐχθροὺς μέθεισα τοὺς ἐμούς ἀζημίους; 1050  
 τολμητέον τὰδ'. ἀλλὰ τῆς ἐμῆς κακῆς,  
 τὸ καὶ προ῔σθαι μάλθακούς λόγους φρενός.  
 χωρεῖτε παῖδες εἰς δόμους· ὅτῳ δὲ μὴ  
 θέμις παρῆναι τοῖς ἐμοῖσι θύρᾳσιν,  
 αὐτῷ μελήσει· χεῖρα δ' οὐ διαφθερῶ. 1055  
 ᾄ ᾄ.  
 μὴ δῆτα, θύμέ, μή ποτ' ἐργάσῃ τάδε·  
 ἔασον αὐτούς, ὦ τάλαν, φείσῃ τέκνων·  
 ἐκεῖ μεθ' ἡμῶν ζῶντες εὐφρανοῦσί σε.  
 μὰ τοὺς παρ' Αἰδη νερτέρους ἀλάστορας,  
 οὗτοι ποτ' ἔσται τοῦθ' ὅπως ἐχθροῖς ἐγὼ 1060  
 παῖδας παρήσω τοὺς ἐμούς καθυβρίσαι.  
 [πάντως σφ' ἀνάγκη κατθανεῖν· ἐπεὶ δὲ χρή,  
 ἡμεῖς κτενοῦμεν οἵπερ ἐξεφύσαμεν.]  
 πάντως πέπρακται ταῦτα κοῦκ ἐκφεύξεταί.  
 καὶ δὴ 'πὶ κρατὶ στέφανος, ἐν πέπλοισί τε 1065  
 νύμφη τύραννος ὀλλυταί, σάφ' οἶδ' ἐγώ.

ἀλλ' εἶμι γὰρ δὴ τλήμονεσ<sup>most dissuol</sup>τάτην ὁδόν,  
 καὶ τούσδε πέμψω<sup>bygone more dissuol</sup> τλήμονεστέραν ἔτι,  
 παῖδας προσεῖπ<sup>to be kissed</sup>εῖν βούλομαι. δότ', ὦ τέκνα,  
 δότ' ἀσπᾶσθαι<sup>to be kissed</sup> μητρὶ δεξιὰν χέρα.  
 ὦ φιλτάτη χεὶρ, φίλτατον δέ μοι κάρ<sup>to be kissed</sup>α  
 καὶ σ<sup>be</sup>χ<sup>be</sup>ή<sup>be</sup>μα καὶ πρόσωπον<sup>be</sup> εὐγενέ<sup>be</sup>ς τέκνων.  
 εὐδαιμονοῖτον, ἀλλ' ἐκεῖ· τὰ δ' ἐνθάδε  
 πατὴρ ἀφείλετ<sup>be</sup>. ὦ γλυκεῖα προσβολή<sup>be</sup>,  
 ὦ μάλθακός<sup>be</sup> χ<sup>be</sup>ρ<sup>be</sup>ως πνεῦμά θ' ἡδιστον τέκνων.  
 χωρεῖτε χωρεῖτ'· οὐκέτ' εἰμὶ προσβλέπειν  
 οἷα πρὸς ὑμᾶς, ἀλλὰ νικῶμαι κακοῖς.  
 καὶ μανθάνω μὲν οἷα τολμήσω κακά·  
 θυμὸς δὲ κρείσσων τῶν ἐμῶν βουλευμάτων,  
 ὅσπερ μεγίστων<sup>be</sup> αἰτίος<sup>be</sup> κακῶν βροτοῖς.

**ΧΟΡΟΣ.**

πολλάκις ἤδη διὰ λεπτοτέρων  
 μύθων ἐμολον καὶ πρὸς ἀμίλλας·  
 ἦλθον μείζους ἢ χρὴ γενεᾶν  
 θῆλυν ἐρευνᾶν· ἀλλὰ γὰρ ἔστιν  
 μοῦσα καὶ ἡμῖν, ἣ προσομιλεῖ  
 σοφίας ἔνεκεν· πάσαισι μὲν οὖ·  
 παῦρον δὲ γένος — μίαν ἐν πολλαῖς  
 εὖροις ἂν ἴσως —  
 οὐκ ἀπόμουσον τὸ γυναικῶν.  
 καὶ φημι βροτῶν οἵτινές εἰσιν  
 πάμπαν ἄπειροι μηδ' ἐφύτευσαν  
 παῖδας, πρόφerein εἰς εὐτυχίαν  
 τῶν γεινάμενων.

οἱ μὲν ἄτεκνοι δι' ἀπειροσύνην <sup>μεχρὲς</sup>  
 εἴθ' ἤδ' ἄνθρωποις εἴτ' ἀνιάρων <sup>ἀνθρώπων</sup> 1095  
 παῖδες τελέθουσ' οὐχὶ τυχόντες  
 πολλῶν μὲν ἄνθρωπων ἀπεχόνται <sup>ἀνθρώπων</sup>  
 οἷσι δὲ τέκνων ἔστιν ἐν οἴκοις  
 γλυκερὸν βλαστῆναι, ἐσορῶ μελέτη <sup>ἐν καλῇ</sup>  
 κατατρυχομένους τὸν ἅπαντα χρόνον. 1100  
 πρῶτον μὲν ὅπως θρέψωσι καλῶς,  
 βίον θ' ὁπόθεν λείψουσι τέκνοις.  
 ἔτι δ' ἐκ τούτων εἴτ' ἐπὶ φλαύροις  
 εἴτ' ἐπὶ χρηστοῖς <sup>ἐν καλῇ</sup>  
 μοχθοῦσι, τόδ' ἔστιν ἄδηλον. <sup>πολλῶν</sup>  
 ἐν δὲ τὸ πάντων λίσσθιον ἤδη 1105  
 πᾶσιν κατέρω θνητοῖσι κακόν.  
 καὶ δὴ γὰρ ἅλις βίον θ' εὖρον,  
 σῶμά τ' ἐς ἡβην ἤλυθε τέκνων  
 χρηστοί τ' ἐγένοντο. εἰ δὲ κυρῆσαι <sup>ἐν καλῇ</sup>  
 δαίμων οὗτος, φροῦδος ἐς Ἀἰδην 1110  
 Θάνατος, προφέρων σώματα τέκνων.  
 πῶς οὖν λύει πρὸς τοῖς ἄλλοις  
 τήνδ' ἔτι λύπην ἀνιαιοτάτην  
 παίδων ἔνεκεν  
 θνητοῖσι θεοὺς ἐπιβάλλειν; 1115

## ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

φίλαι, πάλαι τοι προσμένουσα τὴν τύχην  
 παραδοκῶ τὰ κεῖθεν οἷ προβήσεται.  
 καὶ δὴ δέδορκα τόνδε τῶν Ἰάσονος  
 στείχοντ' ὀπαδῶν. πνεῦμα δ' ἡρεθισμένον  
 δείκνυσιν ὥς τι καινὸν ἀγγελεῖ κακόν. 1120

## ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

ὦ δεινὸν ἔργον παρανόμῳς εἰργασμένη  
Μήδεια, φεύγε φεύγε, μήτε ναῦαν  
λιποῦς ἀπήνην μήτ' ὄχον πεδοστιβῇ.

## ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

τί δ' ἄξιόν μοι τῇσδε τυγχάνει φυγῆς;

## ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

ὄλωλεν ἡ τύραννος ἀρτίως κόρη 1125  
Κρέων θ' ὁ φύσας φαρμάκων τῶν σῶν ὕπο.

## ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

κάλλιστον εἶπας μῦθον, ἐν δ' εὐεργέταις  
τὸ λοιπὸν ἤδη καὶ φίλοις ἐμοῖς ἔσει.

## ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

τί φῆς; φρονεῖς μὲν ὀρθὰ κοῦ μαίνει, γύναι,  
ἣτις τυράννων ἐστίαν ἠκισμένην 1130  
χαίρεις κλύουσα κοῦ φοβεῖ τὰ τοιάδε;

## ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

ἔχω τι καγὰ τοῖς γε σοῖς ἐναντίον  
λόγοισιν εἰπεῖν· ἀλλὰ μὴ σπέρχου, φίλος,  
λέξον δ' ὅπως ὤλοντο· δις τόσον γὰρ ἂν  
τέρψεας ἡμᾶς, εἰ τεθνᾶσι παγκάκως. 1135

## ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

ἐπεὶ τέκνων σῶν ἦλθε δίπτυχος γονῇ

ΑΙΓΕΥΣ.

τί <sup>τινὸς</sup> χρῆμα δράσας; φράζε μοι <sup>ποῦ ἀπὸ</sup> σαφέστερον.

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

γυναιῖκ' <sup>besides</sup> ἐφ' ἡμῖν δεσπότην δόμων ἔχει.

ΑΙΓΕΥΣ.

ἦ που τετόλμηκ' ἔργον <sup>ἀλλὰ ποῦ</sup> αἰσχιστόν τόδε;

695

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

σάφ' ἴσθ'· ἄτιμοι δ' ἐσμὲν οἱ <sup>οὐ</sup> πρὸ τοῦ φίλοι.

ΑΙΓΕΥΣ.

πότερον <sup>ἐννοεῖς</sup> ἐρασθεῖς ἢ σὸν <sup>ἐχθρὸν</sup> ἐχθαίρων λέχος;

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

μέγαν γ' ἔρωτα· πιστὸς οὐκ <sup>ἔγχεω</sup> ἔφυ φίλοις.

ΑΙΓΕΥΣ.

<sup>ἴσθαι</sup> ἴτω νυν, εἵπερ ὡς λέγεις ἐστὶν κακός.

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

ἀνδρῶν τυράννων <sup>ἐκείνων</sup> κῆδος ἡράσθη λαβεῖν.

700

ΑΙΓΕΥΣ.

δίδωσ' <sup>ὅτι</sup> δ' αὐτῷ τίς; <sup>τίνα</sup> πέραινέ μοι λόγον.

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

Κρέων, ὃς ἄρχει τῇσδε γῆς Κορινθίας.

τένοντ' ἐς ὀρθὸν ὄμμασι σκοπούμενη.  
 τοῦνθένδε μέντοι δεινὸν ἦν θέαμ' ἰδεῖν·  
 χροῖαν γὰρ ἀλλάξασα λεχρία πάλιν  
 χωρεῖ τρέμουσα κῶλα καὶ μόλις φθάνει  
 θρόνοισιν ἐμπεσοῦσα μὴ χαμαὶ πεσεῖν. 1170  
 καί τις γεραῖα προσπόλων δόξασά που  
 ἦ Πανὸς ὀργὰς ἦ τινὸς θεῶν μολεῖν  
 ἀνωλόλυξε, πρίν γ' ὄρᾳ διὰ στόμα  
 χωροῦντα λευκὸν ἀφρόν, ὀμμάτων δ' ἀπὸ  
 κόρας στρέφουσαν, αἶμά τ' οὐκ ἐνὸν χροῖ· 1175  
 εἴτ' ἀντίμολπον ἦκεν ὀλολυγῆς μέγαν  
 κωκυτόν. εὐθὺς δ' ἦ μὲν εἰς πατρὸς δόμους  
 ὤρμησεν, ἦ δὲ πρὸς τὸν ἀρτίως πόσιν  
 φράσουσα νύμφης συμφοράς· ἅπασα δὲ  
 στέγη πυκνοῖσιν ἐκτύπει δρομήμασιν. 1180  
 ἦδη δ' ἀνέλκων κῶλον ἐκπλέθρου δρόμου  
 ταχὺς βαδιστῆς τερμόνων ἂν ἦπτετο·  
 ἦ δ' ἐξ ἀναύδου καὶ μύσαντος ὄμματος  
 δεινὸν στενάξασ' ἦ τάλαιν' ἠγείρετο·  
 διπλοῦν γὰρ αὐτῇ πῆμ' ἐπεστρατεύετο. 1185  
 χρυσοῦς μὲν ἀμφὶ κρατὶ κείμενος πλόκος  
 θαυμαστὸν ἱεὶ νᾶμα παμφάγου πυρός·  
 πέπλοι δὲ λεπτοί, σῶν τέκνων δωρήματα,  
 λευκὴν ἔδαπτον σάρκα τῆς δυσδαίμονος.  
 φεύγει δ' ἀναστᾶσ' ἐκ θρόνων πυρουμένη, 1190  
 σείουσα χαίτην κρᾶτά τ' ἄλλοτ' ἄλλοσε,  
 ῥῖψαι θέλουσα στέφανον· ἄλλ' ἀραρότως  
 σύνδεσμα χρυσὸς εἶχε, πῦρ δ', ἐπεὶ κόμην  
 ἔσεισε, μᾶλλον δὲ τόσως τ' ἐλάμπετο.

## ΑΙΓΕΥΣ.

πολλῶν ἑκατι τήνδε σοι δοῦναι χάριν,  
 γύναι, πρόθυμός εἰμι, πρῶτα μὲν θεῶν, 720  
 ἔπειτα παίδων ὧν ἐπαγγέλλει γονάς.  
 εἰς τοῦτο γὰρ δὴ φροῦδός εἰμι πᾶς ἐγώ.  
 οὕτω δ' ἔχει μοι· σοῦ μὲν ἐλθούσης, χθόνα,  
 πειράσομαί σου προξενεῖν, δίκαιος ὢν.  
 [τοσόνδε μέντοι σοι προσημαίνω, γύναι· 725  
 ἐκ τῆσδε μὲν γῆς οὐ σ' ἄγειν βουλήσομαι,  
 αὐτὴ δ' ἐάνπερ εἰς ἐμοὺς ἔλθῃς δόμους,  
 μενεῖς ἄστυλος κοῦ σε μὴ μέθῳ τινι.]  
 ἐκ τῆσδε δ' αὐτὴ γῆς ἀπαλλάσσου πόδα·  
 ἀναίτιος γὰρ καὶ ξένοις εἶναι θέλω. 730

## ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

ἔσται τάδ'· ἀλλὰ πίστις εἰ γένοιτό μοι  
 τούτων, ἔχοιμ' ἂν πάντα πρὸς σέθεν καλῶς.

## ΑΙΓΕΥΣ.

μῶν οὐ πέποιθας; ἢ τί σοι τὸ δυσχερές;

## ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

πέποιθα· Πελίου δ' ἐχθρός ἐστί μοι δόμος  
 Κρέων τε. τούτοις δ', ὀρκίοισι μὲν ζυγεῖς, 735  
 ἄγουσιν οὐ μεθεῖν ἂν ἐκ γαίας ἐμέ·  
 λόγοις δὲ συμβὰς καὶ θεῶν ἀνώμοτος,  
 φίλος γένοι' ἂν καπικηρυκεύματα  
 τάχ' ἂν πίθοι σε· τὰμὰ μὲν γὰρ ἀσθενῇ,  
 τοῖς δ' ὄλβος ἔστι καὶ δόμος τυραννικός. 740

τὰ θνητὰ δ' οὐ νῦν πρῶτον ἡγοῦμαι σκιάν,  
οὐδ' ἂν τρέσας εἵπομι τοὺς σοφοὺς βροτῶν 1225  
δοκοῦντας εἶναι καὶ μερίμνητὰς λόγων  
τούτους μεγίστην ζημίαν ὀφλίσκανειν.  
θνητῶν γὰρ οὐδεὶς ἐστὶν εὐδαίμων ἀνὴρ.  
ὄλβου δ' ἐπιρρυσθέντος εὐτυχέστερος  
ἄλλου γένοιτ' ἂν ἄλλος, εὐδαίμων δ' ἂν οὐ. 1230

## ΧΟΡΟΣ.

ἔοιχ' ὁ δαίμων πολλὰ τῇδ' ἐν ἡμέρᾳ  
κακὰ συνάπτειν ἐρδίκως Ἰάσονι.  
ὦ τλήμον', ὥς σου συμφορὰς οἰκτεῖρομεν,  
κόρη Κρέοντος, ἣτις εἰς Ἄιδου πύλας  
οἶχει γάμων ἑκατὶ τῶν Ἰάσονος. 1235

## ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

φίλοι, δέδοκται τοῦργον ὥς τάχιστα μοι  
παῖδας κτανούσῃ τῇσδ' ἀφ' ὀρμᾶσθαι χθονὸς  
καὶ μὴ σχολὴν ἄγουσαν ἐκδοῦναι τέκνα  
ἄλλῃ φονεῦσαι δυσμενεστέρα χερσί.  
πάντως σφ' ἀνάγκη κατθανεῖν. ἐπεὶ δὲ χρή, 1240  
ἡμεῖς κτενοῦμεν, οἵπερ ἐξεφύσαμεν.  
ἀλλ' εἴ' ὀπλίζου, καρδία. τί μέλλομεν  
τὰ δεινὰ κάναγκαῖα μὴ πράσσειν κακά;  
ἄγ', ὦ τάλαινα χεὶρ ἐμή, λαβὲ ξίφος,  
λάβ', ἐρπε πρὸς βαλβίδα λυπηρὰν βίου, 1245  
καὶ μὴ κακισθῆς μηδ' ἀναμνησθῆς τέκνων  
ὥς φίλταθ', ὥς ἔτικτες. ἀλλὰ τήνδε γε  
λαθοῦ βραχεῖαν ἡμέραν παίδων σέθεν,



καῖπειτα θρήνει· <sup>καὶ γὰρ</sup> εἰ κτενεῖς σφ' ὁμῶς  
 φίλοι τ' ἔφυσαν, δυστυχῆς δ' ἐγὼ γυνή. 1250

*Εὐ- Τίμω*

## ΧΟΡΟΣ.

Ἰὼ Γᾶ τε καὶ παμφαῆς στρ. α'.  
 ἀκτὶς Ἀελίου, κατίδεν' ἴδετε τὰν  
 ὀλομέναν γυναῖκα, πρὶν φοινίαν  
 τέκνοις προσβαλεῖν χερ' αὐτοκτόνον.

σᾶς γὰρ .. χρυσέας γούνας 1255  
 ἔβλασθεν, θεῶν δ' αἶμα .. πίτνειν  
 φόβος ὑπ' ἀνέρων.

ἀλλὰ νυν, ὦ φάος διογενές, κάτειρ-  
 γε, κατάπανσον, ἔξελ' οἰκῶν φονῶν  
 ἀλαίνοντ' Ἑρινύων ὑπ' ἀλάστορον. 1260

μάταν μόχθος ἔρρει τέκνων, ἀντ. α'.  
 μάταν ἄρα γένος φίλιον ἔτεκες, ὦ  
 κυανεᾶν λιποῦσα Συμπληγάδων  
 πετρᾶν ἄξενωτάταν εἰσβολάν.

δεῖλαία, τί σοι φρενῶν βαρὺς 1265  
 χόλος προσπίτνει καὶ .. δυσμενῆς  
 φόνος ἀμειβεταί;

χαλεπὰ γὰρ βροτοῖς ὁμογενῇ μιά-  
 σματ' ἐπὶ γαῖαν αὐτροφόνταις ξυνώ-  
 δὰ θεόθεν πίτνουτ' ἐπὶ δόμοις ἄχῃ. 1270

## ΠΑΙΔΕΣ.

## ΧΟΡΟΣ.

ἀκούεις βοὰν ἀκούεις τέκνων ;  
 ἰὼ τλᾶμον, ὦ κακοτυχὲς γύναι.

στρ. β'.

1274

## ΠΑΙΣ α'.

οἴμοι, τί δράσω ; ποῖ φύγω μητρὸς χέρας ;

1271

## ΠΑΙΣ β'.

οὐκ οἶδ', ἀδελφὲ φίλτατ'· ὀλλύμεσθα γάρ.

## ΧΟΡΟΣ.

παρέλθω δόμους ; ἀρῆξαι φόνον  
 δοκεῖ μοι τέκνοις.

1275

## ΠΑΙΔΕΣ.

ναί, πρὸς θεῶν, ἀρῆξατ'· ἐν δέοντι γάρ·  
 ὥς ἐγγὺς ἤδη γ' ἐσμέν ἄρκυνων ξίφους.

## ΧΟΡΟΣ.

τάλαιν', ὥς ἄρ' ἦσθα πέτρος ἢ σίδαρος, ἅτις  
 τέκνων ὄν ἔτεκες

1280

ἄροτον αὐτόχειρι μοίρα κτενεῖς·

μίαν δὴ κλύω μίαν τῶν πάρος

ἀντ. β'.

γυναικ' ἐν φίλοις χέρα βαλεῖν τέκνοις,

Ἴνῳ μανεῖσαν ἐκ θεῶν, ὅθ' ἡ Διὸς

δαμαρ νιν ἐξέπεμψε δωμάτων ἄλλῃ.

1285

πίτνει δ' ἅ τάλαιν' ἐς ἄλμαν φόνῳ

τέκνων δυσσεβεῖ,

ὄψεσθ', ἐς ἄλλο <sup>σταλὲ</sup> σχῆμ' <sup>passiva</sup> ἀποστάντες βίου.  
 φεῦ φεῦ· τί προσδερκεσθέ μ' ὄμμασιν, τέκνα; 1040  
 τί προσγελᾶτε τὸν πανύστατον γέλων;  
 αἰαῖ· τί δράσω; καρδία γὰρ οἴχεται,  
 γυναῖκες, ὄμμα <sup>cheer</sup> φαίδροον ὥς εἶδον τέκνων.  
 οὐκ ἂν δυναίμην· <sup>care</sup> χαιρέτω <sup>counsel</sup> βουλευμάτα  
 τὰ πρόσθεν· <sup>will</sup> ἄξω <sup>will</sup> παῖδας ἐκ γαίας ἐμούς. 1045

τί δεῖ με πατέρα τῶνδε τοῖς τούτων κακοῖς  
 λυποῦσαν <sup>lykes</sup> αὐτὴν <sup>asymmet</sup> δις <sup>asymmet</sup> τόσα κτᾶσθαι κακά;  
 οὐ δῆτ' ἔγωγε· <sup>care</sup> χαιρέτω βουλευμάτα.  
 καίτοι τί πάσχω; <sup>care</sup> βούλομαι γέλῳτ' <sup>care</sup> ὀφλεῖν  
 ἐχθροὺς μέθεισά τοὺς ἐμούς ἀζημίους; 1050  
<sup>care</sup> τολμητέον τάδ'. <sup>care</sup> ἀλλὰ τῆς ἐμῆς <sup>care</sup> κακῆς, <sup>care</sup> αὖτις  
 τὸ καὶ <sup>care</sup> προέσθαι <sup>care</sup> μαλθακοὺς λόγους φρενός.  
 χωρεῖτε παῖδες εἰς δόμους· ὅτῳ δὲ μὴ  
 θέμις <sup>care</sup> παρῆναι <sup>care</sup> τοῖς ἐμοῖσι <sup>care</sup> θύμασιν,  
 αὐτῷ <sup>care</sup> μελήσει· <sup>care</sup> χεῖρα δ' οὐ διαφθέρω. 1055  
 ᾄ ᾄ.

μὴ δῆτα, <sup>care</sup> θυμέ, <sup>care</sup> μή ποτ' <sup>care</sup> ἐργάσῃ <sup>care</sup> τάδε·  
 ἔασόν αὐτούς, ὦ <sup>care</sup> τάλαν, <sup>care</sup> φείσῃ <sup>care</sup> τέκνων·  
 ἐκεῖ μεθ' ἡμῶν <sup>care</sup> ζῶντες <sup>care</sup> εὐφρανοῦσί σε.  
 μὰ τοὺς παρ' <sup>care</sup> Αἰδη <sup>care</sup> νερτέρους <sup>care</sup> ἀλάστορας,  
 οὗτοι ποτ' <sup>care</sup> ἔσται <sup>care</sup> τοῦθ' <sup>care</sup> ὅπως <sup>care</sup> ἐχθροῖς <sup>care</sup> ἐγὼ 1060  
 παῖδας <sup>care</sup> παρήσω <sup>care</sup> τοὺς ἐμούς <sup>care</sup> καθυβρίσαι.  
 [πάντως σφ' <sup>care</sup> ἀνάγκη <sup>care</sup> κατθανεῖν· <sup>care</sup> ἐπεὶ δὲ <sup>care</sup> χρή,  
 ἡμεῖς <sup>care</sup> κτενοῦμεν <sup>care</sup> οἵπερ <sup>care</sup> ἐξεφύσταμεν.]  
 πάντως <sup>care</sup> πέπρακται <sup>care</sup> ταῦτα <sup>care</sup> κοῦκ <sup>care</sup> ἐκφεύξεται.  
 καὶ δὴ <sup>care</sup> 'πὶ <sup>care</sup> κρατὶ <sup>care</sup> στέφανος, <sup>care</sup> ἐν <sup>care</sup> πέπλοισί <sup>care</sup> τε 1065  
 νύμφη <sup>care</sup> τύραννος <sup>care</sup> ὀλλύται, <sup>care</sup> σάφ' <sup>care</sup> οἶδ' <sup>care</sup> ἐγώ.

ἀλλ' εἰμι γὰρ δὴ τλημόνεστάτην ὁδόν,  
 καὶ τούσδε πέμψω τλημόνεστέραν ἔτι,  
 παῖδας προσεῖπὲν βούλομαι. δότ', ὦ τέκνα,  
 δότ' ἀσπασασθαι μητρὶ δεξιὰν χέρα. 1070  
 ὦ φιλτάτη χεὶρ, φίλτατον δέ μοι κάρα  
 καὶ σῆμα καὶ πρόσωπον εὐγενὲς τέκνων.  
 βε <sup>υἱὸς</sup> εὐδαιμονοῖτον, ἀλλ' ἐκεῖ· τὰ δ' ἐνθάδε  
 πατὴρ ἀφείλετ. ὦ γλυκεῖα προσβολή,  
 ὦ μάλθακός <sup>ἐνθάδε</sup> χρῶς πνεῦμά θ' ἡδιστον τέκνων. 1075  
 χαρεῖτε χωρεῖτ'· οὐκέτ' εἰμὶ προσβλέπειν  
 οἷα πρὸς ὑμᾶς, ἀλλὰ νικῶμαι κακοῖς.  
 καὶ μανθάνω μὲν οἷα τολμήσω κακά·  
 θυμὸς δὲ κρείσσων τῶν ἐμῶν βουλευμάτων,  
 ὅσπερ <sup>ἵνα</sup> μεγίστων <sup>ἵνα</sup> αἰτίος κακῶν βροτοῖς. 1080

**ΧΟΡΟΣ.**

πολλάκις ἤδη διὰ λεπτοτέρων  
 μύθων ἐμολον καὶ πρὸς ἀμίλλας  
 ἦλθον μείζους ἢ χρόνῳ γενεᾶν  
 θῆλυν ἐρευνᾶν· ἀλλὰ γὰρ ἔστιν  
 μούσα καὶ ἡμῖν, ἣ προσομίλει  
 σοφίας ἔνεκεν· πάσαισι μὲν οὖ·  
 παῦρον δὲ γένος — μίαν ἐν πολλαῖς  
 εὖροις ἂν ἴσως —  
 οὐκ ἀπόμουσον τὸ γυναικῶν.  
 καί φημι βροτῶν οἵτινές εἰσιν  
 πάμπαν ἄπειροι μηδ' ἐφύτευσαν  
 παῖδας, πρόφerein εἰς εὐτυχίαν  
 τῶν γειναιμένων.

οἱ μὲν ἄτεκνοι δι' ἀπειροσύνην <sup>μετρημένην</sup>  
 εἴθ' ἡδὺ βροτοῖς εἴτ' ἀνιαρόν <sup>αἰσχρὴν</sup> 1095  
 παῖδες τελέθουσ' οὐχὶ τυχόντες  
 πολλῶν μυχθων ἀπεχονται <sup>ἀντιφρονέοντες</sup>  
 οἷσι δὲ τέκνων ἔστιν ἐν οἴκοις  
 γλυκερὸν βλάστημ', ἐσορῶ μελέτη <sup>ἐν καλῇ</sup>  
 κατατρυχομένους τὸν ἅπαντα χρόνον 1100  
 πρῶτον μὲν ὅπως θρέψωσι καλῶς,  
 βίотόν θ' ὁπόθεν λείψουσι τέκνοις·  
 ἔτι δ' ἐκ τούτων εἴτ' ἐπὶ φλαύροις  
 εἴτ' ἐπὶ χρηστοῖς <sup>ἐν καλῇ</sup>  
 μοχθοῦσι, τόδ' ἔστιν ἄδηλον <sup>κατὰ δόξαν</sup>  
 ἐν δὲ τὸ πάντων λίσσθιον ἤδη 1105  
 πᾶσιν κατέρῳ θνητοῖσι κακόν·  
 καὶ δὴ γὰρ ἄλῃς βίотόν θ' εὖρον,  
 σῶμά τ' ἐς ἡβην ἤλυθε τέκνων  
 χρηστοί τ' ἐγένοντ'· εἰ δὲ κυρῆσαι <sup>ἐκ τῆς ἡβῆς</sup>  
 δαίμων οὗτος, φροῦδος ἐς Ἄϊδην 1110  
 Θάνατος προφέρων σώματα τέκνων·  
 πῶς οὖν λύει πρὸς τοῖς ἄλλοις  
 τήνδ' ἔτι λύπην ἀνιαροτάτην  
 παίδων ἔνεκεν  
 θνητοῖσι θεοὺς ἐπιβάλλειν; 1115

## ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

φίλαι, πάλαι τοι προσμένουσα τὴν τύχην  
 караδοκῶ τὰ κεῖθεν οἷ προβήσεται.  
 καὶ δὴ δέδορκα τόνδε τῶν Ἰάσονος  
 στείχοντ' ὀπαδῶν· πνεῦμα δ' ἠρεθισμένον  
 δείκνυσιν ὥς τι καινὸν ἀγγελεῖ κακόν. 1120

## ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

ὦ δεινὸν ἔργον παρανόμῳς εἰργασμένη  
Μήδεια, φεῦγε φεῦγε, μήτε ναῖαν  
λιποῦς' ἀπήνην μήτ' ὄχον πεδοστιβῇ.

## ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

τί δ' ἄξιόν μοι τῇσδε τυγχάνει φυγῆς;

## ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

ὄλωλεν ἡ τύραννος ἀρτίως κόρη 1125  
Κρέων θ' ὁ φύσας φαρμάκων τῶν σῶν ὑπο.

## ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

κάλλιστον εἶπας μῦθον, ἐν δ' εὐεργέταις  
τὸ λοιπὸν ἤδη καὶ φίλοις ἐμοῖς ἔσει.

## ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

τί φῆς; φρονεῖς μὲν ὀρθὰ κοῦ μαίνει, γύναι,  
ἥτις τυράννων ἐστίαν ἠκισμένην 1130  
χαίρεις κλύουσα κοῦ φοβεῖ τὰ τοιάδε;

## ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

ἔχω τι καὶ γὰρ τοῖς γε σοῖς ἐναντίον  
λόγοισιν εἰπεῖν· ἀλλὰ μὴ σπέρχου, φίλος,  
λέξον δ' ὅπως ὤλοντο· δις τόσον γὰρ ἂν  
τέρψεαις ἡμᾶς, εἰ τεθνᾶσι παγκάκως. 1135

## ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

ἐπεὶ τέκνων σῶν ἦλθε δίπτυχος γονὴ

σὺν πατρὶ καὶ παρῆλθε νυμφικοὺς δόμους,  
 ἦσθημὲν οἷπερ σοῖς ἐκάμνομεν κακοῖς  
 δμῶες· δι' οἴκων δ' εὐθὺς ἦν πολὺς λόγος  
 σὲ καὶ πόσιν σὸν νεῖκος ἐσπείσθαι τὸ πρίν. 1140  
 κυνεῖ δ' ὁ μὲν τις χεῖρ', ὁ δὲ ξανθὸν κάρα  
 παίδων· ἐγὼ δὲ καὐτὸς ἡδονῆς ὑπο  
 στέγας γυναικῶν σὺν τέκνοις ἄμ' ἐσπόμην.  
 δέσποινα δ' ἦν νῦν ἀντὶ σοῦ θαυμάζομεν,  
 πρίν μὲν τέκνων σῶν εἰσιδεῖν ξυνωρίδα, 1145  
 πρόθυμον εἶχ' ὀφθαλμὸν εἰς Ἰάσωνα·  
 ἔπειτα μέντοι προυκαλύψατ' ὄμματα,  
 λευκὴν τ' ἀπέστρεψ' ἔμπαλιν παρηίδα,  
 παίδων μυσαχθείς' εἰσόδους· πόσις δὲ σὸς  
 ὀργὰς ἀφήρει καὶ χόλον νεάνιδος 1150  
 λέγων τάδ'· οὐ μὴ δυσμενὴς ἔσει φίλοις,  
 παύσει δὲ θυμοῦ καὶ πάλιν στρέψεις κάρα,  
 φίλους νομίζουσ' οὔσπερ ἂν πόσις σέθεν,  
 δέξει δὲ δῶρα καὶ παραιτήσεται πατρὸς  
 φυγὰς ἀφείναι παισὶ τοῖσδ' ἐμὴν χάριν· 1155  
 ἢ δ' ὥς ἐσεῖδε κόσμον, οὐκ ἠνέσχετο,  
 ἀλλ' ἦνεσ' ἀνδρὶ πάντα· καὶ πρίν ἐκ δόμων  
 μακρὰν ἀπεῖναι πατέρα καὶ παῖδας σέθεν,  
 λαβοῦσα πέπλους ποικίλους ἡμπίσχετο,  
 χρυσοῦν τε θεῖσα στέφανον ἀμφὶ βοστρύχοις 1160  
 λαμπρῷ κατόπτρῳ σχηματίζεται κόμην,  
 ἄψυχον εἰκὼ προσγελῶσα σώματος.  
 κᾶπειτ' ἀναστᾶσ' ἐκ θρόνων διέρχεται  
 στέγας, ἀβρὸν βαίνουσα παλλεύκῳ ποδί,  
 δώροις ὑπερχαίρουσα, πολλὰ πολλάκις 1165

τένοντ' ἐς ὀρθὸν ὄμμασι σκοπούμενη.  
 τοῦνθένδε μέντοι δεινὸν ἦν θέαμ' ἰδεῖν·  
 χροιάν γὰρ ἀλλάξασα λεχρία πάλιν  
 χωρεῖ τρέμουσα κῶλα καὶ μόλις φθάνει  
 θρόνοισιν ἐμπεσοῦσα μὴ χαμαὶ πεσεῖν. 1170  
 καὶ τις γεραιὰ προσπόλων δόξασά που  
 ἦ Πανὸς ὀργὰς ἦ τινὸς θεῶν μολεῖν  
 ἀνωλόλυξε, πρίν γ' ὄρᾳ διὰ στόμα  
 χωροῦντα λευκὸν ἀφρόν, ὀμμάτων δ' ἀπὸ  
 κόρας στρέφουσαν, αἶμά τ' οὐκ ἐνὸν χροῖ· 1175  
 εἶτ' ἀντίμολπον ἦκεν ὀλολυγῆς μέγαν  
 κωκυτόν. εὐθὺς δ' ἦ μὲν εἰς πατρὸς δόμους  
 ὤρμησεν, ἦ δὲ πρὸς τὸν ἀρτίως πόσιν  
 φράσουσα νύμφης συμφοράς· ἅπασα δὲ  
 στέγη πυκνοῖσιν ἐκτύπει δρομήμασιν. 1180  
 ἦδη δ' ἀνέλκων κῶλον ἐκπλέθρου δρόμου  
 ταχὺς βαδιστῆς τερμόνων ἂν ἦπτετο·  
 ἦ δ' ἐξ ἀναύδου καὶ μύσαντος ὄμματος  
 δεινὸν στενάξασ' ἦ τάλαιν' ἠγείρετο·  
 διπλοῦν γὰρ αὐτῇ πῆμ' ἐπεστρατεύετο. 1185  
 χρυσοῦς μὲν ἀμφὶ κρατὶ κείμενος πλόκος  
 θαυμαστὸν ἱεὶ νᾶμα παμφάγου πυρός·  
 πέπλοι δὲ λεπτοί, σῶν τέκνων δωρήματα,  
 λευκὴν ἔδαπτον σάρκα τῆς δυσδαίμονος.  
 φεύγει δ' ἀναστᾶσ' ἐκ θρόνων πυρουμένη, 1190  
 σείουσα χαίτην κράτά τ' ἄλλοτ' ἄλλοσε,  
 ῥῖψαι θέλουσα στέφανον· ἀλλ' ἀραρότως  
 σύνδεσμα χρυσὸς εἶχε, πῦρ δ', ἐπεὶ κόμην  
 ἔσεισε, μᾶλλον δις τόσως τ' ἐλάμπετο.



παῖδας φέροντας. ἀλλ' ὅσον τάχος χρεῶν 950  
 κόσμον κομίζειν δεῦρο προσπόλων τινά.  
 εὐδαιμονήσει δ' οὐχ ἔν ἀλλὰ<sup>ἑν</sup> μυρία,  
 ἀνδρός τ' ἀρίστου σοῦ τυχοῦς' ὁμευνέτου  
 κεκτημένη τε κόσμον ὃν ποθ' Ἥλιος  
 πατὴρ πατὴρ δίδωσιν ἐκγονοῖσιν οἷς. 955  
 λαυσθε φερνάς τάσδε, παῖδες, εἰς χέρας  
 καὶ τῇ τυράννῳ μακάρια νύμφη δότε  
 φέροντες· οὗτοι δῶρα μεμπτά δέξεται.

## ΙΑΣΩΝ.

τί δ', ὦ ματαία, τῶνδε σὰς κενοῖς χέρας;  
 δοκεῖς σπανίζειν δῶμα βασιλείου πέπλων, 960  
 δοκεῖς δὲ χρυσοῦ; σῶζε, μὴ δίδου τάδε.  
 εἴπερ γὰρ ἡμᾶς ἀξιοῖ λόγου τινὸς  
 γυνή, προθήσει χρημάτων, σάφ' οἶδ' ἐγώ.

## ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

μή μοι σύ· πείθειν δῶρα καὶ θεοὺς λόγος· ἐστί  
 χρυσὸς δὲ κρείστων<sup>ἑν</sup> μυρίων λόγων βροτοῖς. 965  
 κείνης ἡ δαίμων, κείνα νῦν αὖξει θεός,  
 νέα, τυραννεί· τῶν δ' ἐμῶν παίδων φυγὰς  
 ψυχῆς ἂν ἀλλάξαίμεθ', οὐ χρυσοῦ μόνον.  
 ἀλλ', ὦ τέκν', εἰσελθόντε πλουσίους δόμους  
 πατὴρ<sup>ῶ</sup> νέαν γυναῖκα, δεσπότιν δ' ἐμήν, 970  
 ἱκετεύετ', ἐξαιτείσθε μὴ φεύγειν χθόνα,  
 κόσμον διδόντες· τοῦδε γὰρ μάλιστα δεῖ,  
 εἰς χεῖρ' ἐκείνην δῶρα δέξασθαι τάδε.  
 ἴθ' ὥς τάχιστα· μητρὶ δ' ὦν<sup>ῶν</sup> ἔρα<sup>ῶν</sup> τυχεῖν  
 εὐάγγελοι γένοισθε πράξαντες καλῶς. 975

τὰ θνητὰ δ' οὐ νῦν πρῶτον ἡγοῦμαι σκιάν,  
οὐδ' ἂν τρέσας εἵπομι τοὺς σοφοὺς βροτῶν 1225  
δοκοῦντας εἶναι καὶ μερίμνητὰς λόγων  
τούτους μεγίστην ζημίαν ὀφλίσκανειν·  
θνητῶν γὰρ οὐδεὶς ἐστὶν εὐδαίμων ἀνὴρ·  
ὄλβου δ' ἐπιρρυσθέντος εὐτυχέστερος  
ἄλλου γένοιτ' ἂν ἄλλος, εὐδαίμων δ' ἂν οὔ. 1230

## ΧΟΡΟΣ.

εἰχ' ὁ δαίμων πολλὰ τῇδ' ἐν ἡμέρᾳ  
κακὰ ξυνάπτειν ἐνδίκως Ἰάσονι,  
ὦ τλήμων, ὥς σου συμφορὰς οἰκτείρομεν,  
κόρη Κρέοντος, ἣτις εἰς Ἄιδου πύλας  
οἶχει γάμων ἑκατὶ τῶν Ἰάσονος. 1235

## ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

φίλοι, δέδοκται τοῦργον ὥς τάχιστα μοι  
παῖδας κτανούσῃ τῇσδ' ἀφόρμᾳσθαι χθονὸς  
καὶ μὴ σχολὴν ἄγουσαν ἐκδοῦναι τέκνα  
ἄλλῃ φονεῦσαι δυσμενεστέραν χερί.  
πάντως σφ' ἀνάγκη κατθανεῖν. ἐπεὶ δὲ χρή, 1240  
ἡμεῖς κτενοῦμεν, οἵπερ ἐξεφύσαμεν.  
ἀλλ' εἴ' ὀπλίζου, καρδία. τί μέλλομεν  
τὰ δεινὰ κάναγκαῖα μὴ πράσσειν κακά;  
ἄγ', ὦ τάλαινα χεὶρ ἐμή, λαβὲ ξίφος,  
λάβ', ἔρπε πρὸς βαλβίδα λυπηρὰν βίου, 1245  
καὶ μὴ κακισθῆς μηδ' ἀναμνησθῆς τέκνων  
ὥς φίλταθ', ὥς ἔτικτες· ἀλλὰ τήνδε γε  
λαθοῦ βραχεῖαν ἡμέραν παίδων σέθεν,

καί περ ἰατρῶν ἰατρῶν  
 κάπειτα θρήνει· καὶ γὰρ εἰ κτενεῖς σφ' ὁμῶς  
 φίλοι τ' ἔφυσαν, δυστυχῆς δ' ἐγὼ γυνή. 1250

Εὐ- Μελία

## ΧΟΡΟΣ.

Ἰὼ Γᾶ τε καὶ παμφαῆς 1251  
 ἀκτὶς Ἀελίου, κατίδεν' ἴδετε τὰν  
 ὀλομέναν γυναῖκα, πρὶν φοινίαν  
 τέκνοις προσβαλεῖν χερσὶν αὐτοκτόνον·

σᾶς γὰρ .. χρυσέας γονᾶς 1255  
 ἔβλαστέν, θεῶν δ' αἶμα .. πίτνειν  
 φόβος ὑπ' ἀνέρων.

ἀλλὰ γιν, ὦ φάος διογενές, κάτειρ-  
 γε, κατάπαυσον, ἔξελ' οἴκων φονῶν  
 ἀλαῖνοντ' Ἑρινύων ὑπ' ἀλάστορον. 1260

μάταν μόχθος ἔρρει τέκνων, 1261  
 μάταν ἄρα γένος φίλιον ἔτεκες, ὦ  
 κυανεᾶν λιποῦσα Συμπληγάδων  
 πετρᾶν ἀξενωτάταν εἰσβολάν.

δειλαία, τί σοι φρενῶν βαρὺς 1265  
 χόλος προσπίτνει καὶ .. δυσμενῆς  
 φόνος ἀμείβεταί;

χαλεπὰ γὰρ βροτοῖς ὁμογενῇ μιά-  
 σματ' ἐπὶ γαῖαν αὐτῶφόνταις ξυνώ-  
 δα θεόθεν πίτνοντ' ἐπὶ δόμοις ἄχῃ. 1270

## ΠΑΙΔΕΣ.

Η. 92

## ΧΟΡΟΣ.

ἀκούεις βοᾶν ἀκούεις τέκνων;  
 ἰὼ τλᾶμον, ὦ κακοτυχὲς γύναι.

στρ. β'.

1274

## ΠΑΙΣ Α'.

οἷμοι, τί δράσω; ποῖ φύγω μητρὸς χέρας;

1271

## ΠΑΙΣ Β'.

οὐκ οἶδ', ἀδελφὲ φίλτατ'· ὀλλύμεσθα γάρ.

## ΧΟΡΟΣ.

παρέλθω δόμους; ἀρῆξαι φόνον  
 δοκεῖ μοι τέκνοις.

1275

## ΠΑΙΔΕΣ.

ναί, πρὸς θεῶν, ἀρῆξατ'· ἐν δέοντι γάρ·  
 ὥς ἐγγὺς ἤδη γ' ἐσμέν ἀρκύων ξίφους.

## ΧΟΡΟΣ.

τάλαιν', ὡς ἄρ' ἦσθα πέτρος ἢ σίδαρος, ἅτις  
 τέκνων ὄν ἔτεκες  
 ἄροτον αὐτόχειρι μοίρᾳ κτενεῖς.

1280

μίαν δὴ κλύω μίαν τῶν πάρος  
 γυναῖκ' ἐν φίλοις χέρα βαλεῖν τέκνοις,  
 Ἰνὼ μανεῖσαν ἐκ θεῶν, ὅθ' ἡ Διὸς  
 δᾶμαρ νιν ἐξέπεμψε δωμάτων ἄλῃ.

ἀντ. β'.

1285

πίτνει δ' ἅ τάλαιν' ἐς ἄλμαν φόνῳ  
 τέκνων δυσσεβεῖ,

ἀκτῆς ὑπερτείνασα ποντίας πόδα,  
 δυοῖν τε παῖδων συνθανοῦσ' ἀπόλλυται. /  
 τί δῆτ' οὖν γένοιτ' ἂν ἔτι δεινόν; ὦ γυναικῶν  
 λέχος πολυπόνον, 1291  
 ὅσα βροτοῖς ἔρεξας ἤδη κακά.

## ΙΑΣΩΝ.

Γυναῖκες, αἱ τῆσδ' ἐγγὺς ἔστατε στέγης,  
 ἄρ' ἐν δόμοισιν ἢ τὰ δειν' εἰργασμένη  
 Μήδεια τοῖσδ' ἔτ', ἢ μέθεσθηκεν φυγῇ; 1295  
 δεῖ γάρ νιν ἥτοι γῆς σφε κρυφθῆναι κάτω,  
 ἢ πτήνδον ἄραι σῶμ' ἐς αἰθέρος βάθος,  
 εἰ μὴ τυράννων δώμασιν δώσσει δίκην.  
 πέποιθ' ἀποκτείνασα κριτάνους χθονὸς  
 ἄθῳ αὐτῇ τῶνδε φεύξεσθαι δόμων; 1300  
 ἀλλ' οὐ γὰρ αὐτῆς φροντίδ' ὥς τέκνων ἔχω.  
 κείνην μὲν οὐς ἔδρασεν ἔρξουσιν κακῶς,  
 ἐμῶν δὲ παίδων ἦλθον ἐκσῶσαι βίον,  
 μή μοί τι δράσωσ' οἱ προσήκοντες γένει,  
 μητρῶον ἐκπράσσοντες ἀνδρῶν φόνον. 1305

## ΧΟΡΟΣ.

ὦ τλήμον, οὐκ οἶσθ' οἱ κακῶν ἐλήλυθας,  
 Ἴᾱσον· οὐ γὰρ τούσδ' ἂν ἐφθέγξω λόγους.

## ΙΑΣΩΝ.

τί δ' ἔστιν; ἢ που καμ' ἀποκτεῖναι θέλει;

## ΧΟΡΟΣ.

παῖδες τεθνᾶσι χειρὶ μητρῶα σέθεν.

ΙΑΣΩΝ.

οἶμοι τί λέξεις; ὥς μ' ἀπώλεσας, γύναι.

1310

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

ὥς οὐκέτ' ὄντων σῶν τέκνων φρόντιζε δῆ.

ΙΑΣΩΝ.

ποῦ γάρ νιν ἔκτειν', ἐντὸς ἧ' ἔωθεν δόμων;

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

πύλας ἀνοίξας σῶν τέκνων ὄψει φόνον.

ΙΑΣΩΝ.

χαλᾶτε κληῖδας ὥς τάχιστα, πρόσπολοι,  
ἐκλύεθ' ἀρμούς, ὥς ἴδω διπλοῦν κακόν,  
τοὺς μὲν θανόντας, τὴν δὲ τίσσωμαι φόνῳ.

1315

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

τί τάσδε κινεῖς κἀνάμοχλεύεις πύλας,  
νεκρούς ἔρυνῶν καμὲ τὴν εἰργασμένην;  
παῦσαι πόνου τοῦδ'. εἰ δ' ἐμοῦ χρεῖαν ἔχεις,  
λέγ' εἴ τι βούλει, χειρὶ δ' οὐ ψαῦσεις ποτέ.  
τοιόνδ' ὄχῆμα πατρὸς Ἥλιος πατήρ  
δίδωσιν ἡμῖν, ἔρυνά πολεμίας χερός.

1320

ΙΑΣΩΝ.

ὦ μῖσος, ὦ μέγιστον ἐχθίστη γύναι  
θεοῖς τε κάμοι παντί τ' ἀνθρώπων γένει,  
ἧτις τέκνοισι σοῖσιν ἐμβαλεῖν ξίφος

1325

οἱ μὲν ἄτεκνοι δι' ἀπειροσύνην <sup>μεγμένην</sup>  
 εἴθ' ἤδ' ἄνθρωποις εἴτ' ἀνιάρων <sup>ἀνθρώπων</sup> 1095  
 παῖδες τελέθουσ' οὐχὶ τυχόντες  
 πολλῶν μυχθῶν ἀπέχονται <sup>ἀντὶ τῆς</sup>  
 οἷσι δὲ τέκνων ἔστιν ἐν οἴκοις  
 γλυκερὸν βλαστῆμ', ἐσορῶ μελέτη <sup>ἐν τῇ</sup>  
 κατατρυχομένους τὸν ἅπαντα χρόνον 1100  
 πρῶτον μὲν ὅπως θρέψωσι καλῶς,  
 βίον θ' ὁπόθεν λείψουσι τέκνοις <sup>συστήσονται</sup>  
 ἔτι δ' ἐκ τούτων εἴτ' ἐπὶ φλαύροις <sup>ἡλικίᾳ</sup>  
 εἴτ' ἐπὶ χρηστοῖς <sup>ἐν τῇ</sup>  
 μοχθοῦσι, τόδ' ἔστιν ἄδηλον <sup>ποτέλειαν</sup>  
 ἐν δὲ τὸ πάντων λίσσθιν ἤδη 1105  
 πᾶσιν κατερῶ θνητοῖσι κακόν·  
 καὶ δὴ γὰρ ἄλῃς βίον θ' εὖρον,  
 σῶμά τ' ἐς ἡβην ἤλυθε τέκνων  
 χρηστοί τ' ἐγένοντ'· εἰ δὲ κυρῆσαι <sup>ἀντὶ</sup> <sup>shall be</sup>  
 δαίμων οὗτος, φροῦδος ἐς Ἀἰδην 1110  
 Θάνατος, προφέρων σώματα τέκνων.  
 πῶς οὖν ἰλύει πρὸς τοῖς ἄλλοις  
 τήνδ' ἔτι λύπην ἀνιαιοτάτην  
 παίδων ἔνεκεν  
 θνητοῖσι θεοὺς ἐπιβάλλειν; 1115

## ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

φίλαι, πάλαι τοι προσμένουσα τὴν τύχην  
 καραδοκῶ τὰ κεῖθεν οἷ προβήσεται.  
 καὶ δὴ δέδορκα τόνδε τῶν Ἰάσονος  
 στείχοντ' ὁπαδῶν· πνεῦμα δ' ἡρεθισμένον  
 δείκνυσιν ὥς τι καινὸν ἀγγελεῖ κακόν. 1120

οἷ' ἐξ ἐμοῦ πέπονθας οἶά τ' εἰργάσω.  
 σὺ δ' οὐκ ἔμελλες τὰ μ' ἀτιμάσας λέχη  
<sup>φιλάσας</sup> <sup>had</sup> <sup>ποικίλῃ</sup>  
<sup>ποικίλῃ</sup> <sup>ποικίλῃ</sup> <sup>ποικίλῃ</sup>  
 τερπνοῦ <sup>ποικίλῃ</sup> διαξείν <sup>ποικίλῃ</sup> βίοντον ἐγγέλων ἐμοί,  
 οὐδ' ἢ τύραννος οὐδ' ὅ σοι προσθεῖς γάμους  
 Κρέων ἀτιμον τῇσδέ μ' ἐκβαλεῖν χθονός.  
<sup>ὑπομνήσας</sup>  
 πρὸς ταῦτα καὶ λέαινα <sup>ὑπομνήσας</sup> εἰ βούλει, κάλει,  
 καὶ Σκύλλαν ἢ Τυρσηνὸν ὥκησεν πέδον.  
 τῆς σῆς γὰρ ὥς χρὴ καρδίας ἀνθηψάμην.

ΙΑΣΩΝ.

καὶ αὐτὴ γὰρ λυπεῖ καὶ κακῶν κοινωνὸς εἶ.

**ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.**

σάφ' ἴσθι· λυεῖ δ' ἄλγος, ἣν σὺ μὴ ἔγγελας.

ΙΑΣΩΝ.

ὦ τέκνα, μητρὸς ὡς κακῆς ἐκύρσατε.

**ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.**

ὦ παῖδες, ὡς ὤλεσθε πατρῷά νῦν.

ΙΑΣΩΝ.

οὗτοι νυν ἡμῇ δεξιά σφ' ἀπώλεσεν.

**ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.**

ἀλλ' ὕβρις οἷ τε σοὶ νεοδμηῆτες γάμοι.

ΙΑΣΩΝ.

λέχουσ' σφέ γ' ἡξίωσας οὐνεκα κτανεῖν ;



ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

σμικρὸν γυναικὶ <sup>μικρὸν</sup> πῆμα τοῦτ' εἶναι δοκεῖς;

ΙΑΣΩΝ.

ἥτις γε <sup>μικρὸν</sup> σῶφρων· σοὶ δὲ πάντ' ἐστὶν κακά.

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

οἶδ' οὐκέτ' εἰσὶ <sup>ἀναιδέα</sup>· τοῦτο γάρ σε δήξεται. 1370

ΙΑΣΩΝ.

οἶδ' εἰσὶν ὥμοι, σῶ <sup>καὶ</sup> κάρα <sup>καὶ</sup> μιάστορες.

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

<sup>2</sup>ἴσασιν <sup>3</sup>ὅστις <sup>4</sup>ἤρξε <sup>5</sup>πῆμονῆς <sup>6</sup>θεοί.

ΙΑΣΩΝ.

ἴσασι δῆτα σὴν γ' <sup>ἀπὸ</sup> ἀπόπτυστον φρένα.

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

στύγει· πικρὰν δὲ <sup>βαρύνει</sup> βάξιν ἐχθαίρω σέθεν.

ΙΑΣΩΝ.

καὶ μὴν ἐγὼ σὴν· <sup>εἰ</sup> ῥάδιοι δ' <sup>ἀπαλλάττειν</sup> ἀπαλλαγαί. 1375

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

πῶς οὖν; τί δράσω; <sup>καρτὰ</sup> κάρτα γὰρ καὶ γὰρ θέλω.

ΙΑΣΩΝ.

θάψαι <sup>καὶ</sup> νεκρούς μοι τούσδε καὶ <sup>καλῶς</sup> κλαῦσαι πάρες.

τένοντ' ἐς ὀρθὸν ὄμμασι σκοπουμένη.  
 τοῦνθένδε μέντοι δεινὸν ἦν θέαμ' ἰδεῖν.  
 χροιάν γὰρ ἀλλάξασα λεχρία πάλιν  
 χωρεῖ τρέμουσα κῶλα καὶ μόλις φθάνει  
 θρόνοισιν ἐμπεσοῦσα μὴ χαμαὶ πεσεῖν. 1170  
 καί τις γεραιὰ προσπόλων δόξασά που  
 ἦ Πανὸς ὀργὰς ἦ τινὸς θεῶν μολεῖν  
 ἀνωλόλυξε, πρίν γ' ὄρᾳ διὰ στόμα  
 χωροῦντα λευκὸν ἀφρόν, ὀμμάτων δ' ἀπὸ  
 κόρας στρέφουσαν, αἶμά τ' οὐκ ἐνὸν χροῖ. 1175  
 εἶτ' ἀντίμολπον ἦκεν ὀλολυγῆς μέγαν  
 κωκυτόν. εὐθὺς δ' ἦ μὲν εἰς πατρὸς δόμους  
 ὤρμησεν, ἦ δὲ πρὸς τὸν ἀρτίως πόσιν  
 φράσουσα νύμφης συμφοράς· ἅπασα δὲ  
 στέγη πυκνοῖσιν ἐκτύπει δρομήμασιν. 1180  
 ἦδη δ' ἀνέλκων κῶλον ἐκπλέθρου δρόμου  
 ταχὺς βαδιστῆς τερμόνων ἂν ἦπτετο·  
 ἦ δ' ἐξ ἀναύδου καὶ μύσαντος ὄμματος  
 δεινὸν στενάξασ' ἦ τάλαιν' ἠγείρετο·  
 διπλοῦν γὰρ αὐτῇ πῆμ' ἐπεστρατεύετο. 1185  
 χρυσοῦς μὲν ἀμφὶ κρατὶ κείμενος πλόκος  
 θαυμαστὸν ἱεὶ νᾶμα παμφάγου πυρός·  
 πέπλοι δὲ λεπτοί, σῶν τέκνων δωρήματα,  
 λευκὴν ἔδαπτον σάρκα τῆς δυσδαίμονος.  
 φεύγει δ' ἀναστᾶσ' ἐκ θρόνων πυρουμένη, 1190  
 σείουσα χαίτην κρᾶτά τ' ἄλλοτ' ἄλλοσε,  
 ῥῖψαι θέλουσα στέφανον· ἄλλ' ἀραρότως  
 σύνδεσμα χρυσὸς εἶχε, πῦρ δ', ἐπεὶ κόμην  
 ἔσσεισε, μᾶλλον δὲ τόσως τ' ἐλάμπετο.

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

οὐπω θρηνεῖς · <sup>μένε</sup> καὶ γῆρας. <sup>αὐτοῦ</sup>

ΙΑΣΩΝ.

ὦ τέκνα φίλτατα.

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

<sup>το</sup> μητρί γε, σοὶ δ' οὔ.

ΙΑΣΩΝ.

<sup>καὶ ἀπὸ τῆς γυναικὸς</sup>  
καπεῖτ' ἔκανες;

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

σέ γε <sup>τῇ γυναικὶ</sup> πημαίνουσ'.

ΙΑΣΩΝ.

ὦμοι, φίλιον <sup>χρήζω</sup> στόματος  
παίδων ὃ τάλας προσπτύξασθαι.

1400

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

νῦν σφε προσαυδᾷς, νῦν ἀσπάζει,  
τότ' ἀπωσάμενός.

ΙΑΣΩΝ.

δός μοι πρὸς θεῶν  
μάλακού χρωτὸς ψαῦσαι τέκνων.

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

οὐκ ἔστι μάτην ἔπος ἔρριπται.

## ΙΑΣΩΝ.

Ζεῦ, τάδ' ἀκούεις ὥς ἀπελαινόμεθ' 1405  
 οἷά τε πάσχομεν ἐκ τῆς μυσαρᾶς  
 καὶ παιδοφόνου τῆσδε λεαίνης;  
 ἀλλ' ὅποσον γοῦν πάρα καὶ δύναμαι  
 τάδε καὶ θρηνῶ καπιθεάζω,  
 μαρτυρόμενος δαίμονας ὥς μοι 1410  
 τέκν' ἀποκτείνασ' ἀποκωλύεις  
 ψαῦσαι τε χεροῖν θάψαι τε νεκρούς,  
 οὐς μή ποτ' ἐγὼ φύσας ὄφελον  
 πρὸς σοῦ φθιμένους ἐπιδέσθαι.

## ΧΟΡΟΣ.

πολλῶν ταμίας Ζεὺς ἐν Ὀλύμπῳ, 1415  
 πολλὰ δ' ἀέλπτως κραίνουσι θεοί·  
 καὶ τὰ δοκηθέντ' οὐκ ἔτελέσθη,  
 τῶν δ' ἀδοκῆτων πόρον εὔρε θεός.  
 τοιόνδ' ἀπέβη τόδε πρᾶγμα.

καί περ ἰατρὸν ἔθνην· καὶ γὰρ εἰ κτενεῖς σφ' ὁμῶς  
 φίλοι τ' ἔφυσαν, δυστυχῆς δ' ἐγὼ γυνή. 1250

Εὐ- Τηλέμαχος

## ΧΟΡΟΣ.

Ἰὼ Γᾶ τε καὶ παμφανής 1251  
 ἀκτὶς Ἀελίου, κατίδεδ' ἴδετε τὰν  
 ὀλομέναν γυναῖκα, πρὶν φοινίαν  
 τέκνοις προσβαλεῖν χερσὶν αὐτοκτόνον·  
 σᾶς γὰρ .. χρυσέας γούνας 1255  
 ἔβλαστέν, θεῶν δ' αἶμα .. πίτνειν  
 φόβος ὑπ' ἀνέρων.

ἀλλὰ νῦν, ὦ φάος διογενές, κάτειρ-  
 γε, κατάπαυσον, ἔξελ' οἴκων φονῶν  
 ἀλαίοντ' Ἑρινύων ὑπ' ἀλάστορον. 1260

μάταν μόχθος ἔρρει τέκνων, 1261  
 μάταν ἄρα γένος φίλιον ἔτεκες, ὦ  
 κυανεᾶν λιποῦσα Συμπληγάδων  
 πετρᾶν ἄξενωτάταν εἰσβολάν.  
 δειλαία, τί σοι φρενῶν βαρὺς 1265  
 χόλος προσπίτνει καὶ .. δυσμενῆς  
 φόνος ἀμείβεταί;

χαλεπὰ γὰρ βροτοῖς ὁμογενῇ μιά-  
 σματ' ἐπὶ γαῖαν αὐτὸφόνταις ξυνώ-  
 δα θεόθεν πίτνοντ' ἐπὶ δόμοις ἄχρη. 1270

## ΠΑΙΔΕΣ.

Η. 82 -

## ΧΟΡΟΣ.

ἀκούεις βοᾶν ἀκούεις τέκνων;  
 ἰὼ τλᾶμον, ὦ κακοτυχὲς γύναι.

στρ. β'.

1274

## ΠΑΙΣ Α'.

οἴμοι, τί δράσω; ποῖ φύγω μητρὸς χέρας;

1271

## ΠΑΙΣ Β'.

οὐκ οἶδ', ἀδελφεὲ φίλτατ'· ὀλλύμεσθα γάρ.

## ΧΟΡΟΣ.

παρέλθω δόμους; ἀρῆξαι φόνον  
 δοκεῖ μοι τέκνοις.

1275

## ΠΑΙΔΕΣ.

ναί, πρὸς θεῶν, ἀρῆξατ'· ἐν δέοντι γάρ·  
 ὥς ἐγγὺς ἤδη γ' ἐσμέν ἄρκυνων ξίφους.

## ΧΟΡΟΣ.

τάλαιν', ὡς ἄρ' ἤσθα πέτρος ἢ σίδaros, ἅτις  
 τέκνων ὄν ἔτεκες  
 ἄροτον αὐτόχειρι μοίρα κτενεῖς·

1280

μίαν δὴ κλύω μίαν τῶν πάρος  
 γυναῖκ' ἐν φίλοις χέρα βαλεῖν τέκνοις,  
 Ἴν' ὠ μανείσαν ἐκ θεῶν, ὅθ' ἢ Διὸς  
 δάμαρ νιν ἐξέπεμψε δωμάτων ἄλῃ.  
 πίτνει δ' ἅ τάλαιν' ἐς ἄλμαν φόνῳ  
 τέκνων δυσσεβεῖ,

ἀντ. β'.

1285

ἀκτῆς ὑπερτείνασα ποντίας πόδα,  
 δυοῖν τε παῖδوين συνθανοῦς' ἀπόλλυται. /  
 τί δῆτ' οὖν γένοιτ' ἂν ἔτι δεινόν; ὦ γυναῖκων  
 λέχος πολὺπόνον, 1291  
 ὅσα βροτοῖς ἐρέξας ἤδη κακά.

## ΙΑΣΩΝ.

Γυναῖκες, αἱ τῆσδ' ἐγγὺς ἔστατε στέγης,  
 ἄρ' ἐν δόμοισιν ἢ τὰ δειν' εἰργασμένα  
 Μήδεια τοῖσδ' ἔτ', ἣ μέθεστήκεν φυγῇ; 1295  
 δεῖ γάρ νιν ἥτοι γῆς σφε κρύφθῃναι κάτω,  
 ἢ πτήνδον ἄραι σῶμ' ἐς αἰθέρος βάθος,  
 εἰ μὴ τυράννων δώμασιν δώσει δίκην.  
 πέποιθ' ἀποκτείνασα κοιράνους χθονὸς  
 ἄθῳ αὐτῇ τῶνδε φεύξεσθαι δόμων; 1300  
 ἀλλ' οὐ γὰρ αὐτῆς φροντίδ' ὥς τέκνων ἔχω.  
 κείνην μὲν οὐς ἔδρασεν ἔρξουσιν κακῶς,  
 ἐμῶν δὲ παίδων ἦλθον ἐκσῶσαι βίον,  
 μή μοί τι δράσωσ' οἱ προσήκοντες γένει,  
 μητρῶον ἐκπράσσοιτες ἀνδρσίον φόνον. 1305

## ΧΟΡΟΣ.

ὦ τλήμον, οὐκ οἶσθ' οἱ κακῶν ἐλήλυθας,  
 Ἰᾶσον· οὐ γὰρ τούσδ' ἂν ἐφθέγξω λόγους.

## ΙΑΣΩΝ.

τί δ' ἔστιν; ἦ που καμ' ἀποκτεῖναι θέλει;

## ΧΟΡΟΣ.

παῖδες τεθνᾶσι χειρὶ μητρῶα σέθεν.

ΙΑΣΩΝ.

οἷμοι τί λέξεις; ὥς μ' ἀπώλεσας, γύναι.

1310

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

ὥς οὐκέτ' οὐτῶν σῶν τέκνων φρόντιζε δῆ.

ΙΑΣΩΝ.

ποῦ γάρ νιν ἔκτειν', ἐντὸς ἧ' ἔωθεν δόμων;

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

πύλας ἀνόλξας σῶν τέκνων ὄψει φόνον.

ΙΑΣΩΝ.

χαλάτε κληδας ὥς τάχιστα, πρόσπολοι,  
 ἐκλύεθ' ἀρμούς, ὥς ἴδω διπλοῦν κακόν,  
 τοὺς μὲν θανόντας, τὴν δὲ τύσσωμαι φόνῳ.

1315

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

τί τάσδε κινεῖς κἀνάμοχλεύεις πύλας,  
 νεκροὺς ἐρευνῶν κἀμὲ τὴν εἰργασμένην;  
 παῦσαι πόνου τοῦδ'. εἰ δ' ἐμοῦ χρεῖαν ἔχεις,  
 λέγ' εἴ τι βούλει, χειρὶ δ' οὐ ψαύσεις ποτέ.  
 τοιόνδ' ὄχνημα πατρὸς Ἥλιος πατήρ  
 δίδωσιν ἡμῖν, ἔρυνά πολεμίας χερός.

1320

ΙΑΣΩΝ.

ὦ μῖσος, ὦ μέγιστον ἐχθίστη γύναι  
 θεοῖς τε κἀμοὶ παντί τ' ἀνθρώπων γένει,  
 ἧτις τέκνοισι σοῖσιν ἐμβαλεῖν ξίφος

1325



ἔτλης τεκοῦσα καὶ μ' ἄπαιδ' ἀπώλεσας·  
 καὶ ταῦτα δράσας ἥλιόν τε προσβλέπεις <sup>behold</sup>  
 καὶ γαῖαν, ἔργον <sup>deed</sup> τλάσα <sup>land</sup> δυσσεβέστατον.  
 ὅλοι· ἐγὼ δὲ νῦν φρονῶ, τότε οὐ φρονῶν  
 ὅτ' ἐκ δόμων σε βαρβάρου τ' ἀπὸ χθονὸς 1330  
 Ἑλλην' ἐς οἶκον ἡγόμην, κακὸν μέγα,  
 πατρός τε καὶ γῆς <sup>land</sup> προδοτὶν ἣ σ' ἐθρέψατο·  
 τῶν σῶν ἀλάστορ' εἰς ἔμ' ἐσκήψαν θεοί·  
 κτανοῦσα γὰρ δὴ σὸν κάσιν <sup>house</sup> παρέστιον, <sup>at the altar</sup>  
 τὸ καλλίπρωρον εἰσέβης Ἀργοῦς σκάφος. 1335  
 ἦρξω μὲν ἐκ τοιῶνδε, νύμφευθεῖσα δὲ  
 παρ' ἀνδρὶ τῷδε καὶ τεκοῦσά μοι τέκνα,  
 εὐνῆς ἑκατὶ καὶ λέχους σφ' ἀπώλεσας.  
 οὐκ ἔστιν ἥτις τοῦτ' ἂν Ἑλληνὶς γυνὴ  
 ἔτλη ποθ', ὧν γε πρόσθεν ἡξίουν ἐγὼ 1340  
 γῆμαί σε, κῆδος ἐχθρὸν ὀλέθριόν τ' ἐμοί,  
 Λεαῖναν, οὐ γυναῖκα, τῆς Τυρσηνίδος  
 Σκύλλης ἔχουσαν ἀγριωτέραν φύσιν.  
 ἀλλ' οὐ γὰρ ἂν σε μυρίοις ὀνείδεσι  
 δάκοιμι· τοιόνδ' ἐμπέφυκέ σοι θράσος· 1345  
 ἔρρ', αἰσχροποιέ καὶ τέκνων <sup>slaughter</sup> μαιφόνε.  
 ἐμοὶ δὲ τὸν ἐμὸν δαίμον' αἰάζειν πάρα,  
 ὅς οὔτε λέκτρων νεογάμων ὀνήσομαι,  
 οὐ παῖδας οὐς ἔφυσα, καξεθρεψάμην,  
 ἔξω προσειπεῖν ζῶντας, ἀλλ' ἀπώλεσα. 1350

## ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

μακρὰν ἂν ἐξέτεινα τοῖσδ' ἐναντίον  
 λόγοισιν, εἰ μὴ Ζεὺς πατὴρ ἡπίστατο <sup>will let it be</sup>



ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

σμικρὸν γυναικὶ <sup>μικρὸν</sup> πῆμα τοῦτ' εἶναι δοκεῖς;

ΙΑΣΩΝ.

ἥτις γε <sup>μικρὸν</sup> σῶφρων· σοὶ δὲ πάντ' ἐστὶν κακά.

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

οἶδ' οὐκέτ' εἰσὶ <sup>ἀνταί</sup>· τοῦτο γάρ σε δήξεται. 1370

ΙΑΣΩΝ.

οἶδ' εἰσὶν ὥμοι, σῶ <sup>καὶ</sup> κάρα <sup>μικρὸν</sup> μιάστορες.

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

<sup>2</sup>ἴσασιν <sup>3</sup>ὅστις <sup>4</sup>ἤρξε <sup>5</sup>πῆμον<sup>6</sup>ῆς θεοί.

ΙΑΣΩΝ.

ἴσασι δῆτα σήν γ' <sup>ἀποπνυστον</sup> ἀποπνυστον φρένα.

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

στύγει· πικρὰν δὲ <sup>βαξιν</sup> βαξιν ἐχθαίρω σέθεν.

ΙΑΣΩΝ.

καὶ μὴν ἐγὼ σήν· <sup>ράδιοι</sup> ῥάδιοι δ' ἀπαλλαγαί. 1375

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

πῶς οὖν; τί δράσω; <sup>κάρτα</sup> κάρτα γὰρ καγὰ <sup>θέλω</sup>

ΙΑΣΩΝ.

θάψαι νεκρούς μοι τούσδε καὶ κλαῦσα <sup>καὶ</sup>

## ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

οὐ δῆτ', ἐπεὶ σφᾶς τῇδ' ἐγὼ θάψω χερί,  
 φέρουσ' ἐς Ἥρας τέμενος Ἀκράϊας θεοῦ,  
 ὥς μή τις αὐτοὺς πολεμίων καθυβρίσῃ,  
 τύμβους ἀγασπῶν· γῇ δὲ τῇδε Σισύφου  
 σεμνὴν ἐορτὴν καὶ τέλη προσάψομεν  
 τὸ λοιπὸν ἀντὶ τοῦδε δυσσεβούς φόνου.  
 αὐτὴ δὲ γαῖαν εἶμι τὴν Ἐρεχθέως,  
 Αἰγείῃ συνοικήσουσα τῷ Πανδίωνος.  
 σὺ δ', ὥσπερ εἰκός, κατθανεῖ κακὸς κακῶς,  
 Ἀργοῦς κára σὸν λειψανῶ πεπληγμένος,  
 πικρὰς τελευτὰς τῶν ἐμῶν γάμων ἰδών.

## ΙΑΣΩΝ.

ἀλλὰ σ' Ἐρινὺς ὀλέσειε τέκνων  
 φονία τε Δίκη.

## ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

τίς δὲ κλύει σου θεὸς ἢ δαίμων,  
 τοῦ ψευδόρκου καὶ ξειναπάτου;

## ΙΑΣΩΝ.

φεῦ φεῦ, μυστὰ καὶ παιδολέτορ.

## ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

στείχε πρὸς οἴκους καὶ θάπτ' ἄλοχον.

## ΙΑΣΩΝ.

στείχω, δισσῶν γ' ἄμωρος τέκνων.

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

οὐπω θρηνεῖς· <sup>ἴσῃ</sup> μένε καὶ γῆρας. *αὐτοῦ δ*

ΙΑΣΩΝ.

ὦ τέκνα φιλτατα.

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

ἔμμητρί γε, σοὶ δ' οὐ.

ΙΑΣΩΝ.

*καὶ ἄλλοι, γεν. α*  
καπεῖτ' ἔκανες;

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

σέ γε <sup>ἡ γένε</sup> πημáινουσ'.

ΙΑΣΩΝ.

*ἴσῃ*  
ὦμοι, φίλιον <sup>ἴσῃ</sup> χρήζω στόματος  
παίδων ὃ τάλας προσπτύξασθαι.

1400

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

νῦν σφε πρόσαιδᾶς, νῦν ἀσπάζει,  
τότ' ἀπωσάμενός.

ΙΑΣΩΝ.

δός μοι πρὸς θεῶν  
μαλακοῦ χρωτὸς ψαῦσαι τέκνων.

ΜΗΔΕΙΑ.

οὐκ ἔστι· μάτην ἔπος ἔρριπται. *αὐτοῦ δ*

## ΙΑΣΩΝ.

Ζεῦ, τάδ' ἀκούεις ὥς ἀπελευνόμεθ'  
 οἶά τε πάσχομεν ἐκ τῆς μυσαρᾶς  
 καὶ παιδοφόνου τῆσδε λεαίνης ;  
 ἀλλ' ὅποσον γοῦν πάρα καὶ δύναμαι  
 τάδε καὶ θρηνῶ καπιθεάζω,  
 μαρτυρόμενος δαίμονας ὥς μοι  
 τέκν' ἀποκτείνας' ἀποκωλύεις  
 ψαῦσαί τε χεροῖν θάψαι τε νεκρούς,  
 οὐς μή ποτ' ἐγὼ φύσας ὄφελον  
 πρὸς σοῦ φθιμένους ἐπιδέσθαι.

1405

(1410)

## ΧΟΡΟΣ.

πολλῶν ταμίας Ζεὺς ἐν Ὀλύμπῳ,  
 πολλὰ δ' ἀέλπτως κραινέουσι θεοί·  
 καὶ τὰ δοκηθέντ' οὐκ ἔτελέσθη,  
 τῶν δ' ἀδοκῆτων πόρον εὔρε θεός.  
 τοιόνδ' ἀπέβη τόδε πρᾶγμα.

1415



# NOTES.

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## ON THE HYPOTHESES.

HYPOTHESIS FIRST. — Ascribed in one manuscript to Dicaearchus, who was a pupil of Aristotle, and whom we know, like his master, to have written such dramaturgical notes. A part is perhaps taken from him, but the last part is plainly written by some one else. — **ἐγγυᾶται** : incorrect ; the play represents the marriage as already over. — **Γλαύκη** : Euripides does not mention her name ; later writers call her sometimes Glauce, sometimes Creusa. — **μισθὸν τῆς χάριτος** : again inaccurate ; the gifts are sent in suing for a new favor. — **Φερεκύδης**, a native of Leros, who lived at Athens about the time of the Persian wars and made a collection of legends (*ιστορίαι*) in ten books. — **Σιμωνίδης** of Ceos, the famous poet (556 – 468 B. C.), who lived chiefly in Athens. — For **ὥς—ποιήσκει** we should regularly have **ποιῆσαι**. — **ὁ τοῦς Νόστους ποιήσας**, *the author of the Nosti*, one of the poems of the Epic Cycle ; it was commonly ascribed to Agias of Troezen. — **Στάφυλος**, an Egyptian Greek of uncertain age, who wrote, among other books, a work *περὶ Θετταλῶν*. — **δοκεῖ**, sc. **ὁ Εὐριπίδης**. — **ὑποβαλέσθαι**, *falsely appropriated*, palming it off as his own, as a woman another's child. — **Ἑλλάδος βίος**, in three books, was Dicaearchus' chief work ; it was an account of the customs, institutions, and topography of Greece. — **ὑπομνήμασι** : these were brief notes on various subjects. Those here referred to were in six books, attributed sometimes to Aristotle, sometimes to Theophrastus. — **μέμφονται**, κ. τ. λ. : an unjust criticism ; see on v. 899. — **προπείειν**, *burst*. — **εἰσβολή**, *opening verse*. — **ἐπέξεργασία**, *further development* of the thought. — **Τιμαχίδας**, a glossographer and commentator of uncertain time ; his remark is wrong ; see on v. 3. — **Ὅμηρος** : *Odys. ε, 264*.



HYPOTHESIS SECOND. — Aristophanes of Byzantium, the famous Alexandrine scholar and librarian (about 200 B. C.), busied himself especially with the criticism of the poets. We possess many such brief notices of his on plays. The *didascaliae*, or statements as to date of representation, etc., were collected from the Athenian choregic inscriptions which commemorated the dramatic contests. — **παρ' οὐδετέρῳ**, κ. τ. λ.: that is, neither Aeschylus nor Sophocles composed a play on the same subject. — **πρῶτος** (ῆν), i. e. took the first prize. — **Εὐφορίων**, son of Aeschylus. — **οὐ σφίγεται**, namely, the satyric play *Theristae*. It was not, he means, in the Alexandrine library.

### ON THE PLAY.

The scene is in Corinth before Medea's house. The nurse, whose speech opens the play, is an old slave-woman, attached, according to Greek custom, to the person of her mistress for life, having been her attendant in childhood and her companion in flight from her father's house. She comes upon the stage from out the house. The prologue is better managed than most of Euripides'; the nurse's soliloquy is naturally brought about and discloses the situation to the hearers in an unconstrained way.

1, 2. **εἴθ' ὄφελ'**: for this formula of wishing, see GMT. § 83, 2; H. 721, b (fine print). — **διαπτάσθαι**: the ship is said to fly, as Hel. 147 and elsewhere its sails are called wings. — **Συμπληγάδας** is object of **διαπτ.** The Symplegades or *συνδρομάδες πέτραι* (in Homer *πλαγκταί*) are fabulous rocks believed to close together and crush ships which attempted to pass between them. Homer thinks of them as somewhere in the west, but later they were identified with two rocks at the mouth of the Bosphorus, where it opens into the Euxine. **κύνεαι** is their standing epithet, so that they are even called *αἱ κύνεαι* outright.

3. There is no *hysteron proteron* in this passage; the nurse says, 'Would that the ship had never sailed, — nay, had never even been built.'

4. **ἐρεμῶσαι**: this verb occurs nowhere else in classic Greek. Hesychius explains it by *κώπαις ἀρμύσαι*. The subject is still *πέυκη*. *And would that it had never equipped with oars the hands of those noblest men.* The pine is thought of as furnishing material for oars as well as for ship.

6 flg. **Πελίῳ**: dat. of advantage, *for Pelias*. — **δέσποιν' ἐμή Μήδεια**: these words make it clear to the spectators who the speaker is. — **πύργους**: the place whither; H. 551; G. § 162. — **θυμὸν ἐκπλαγείσα**, *crazed in heart*; **ἐκπλήσσω** of an overpowering passion such as deprives of self-control.

11 flg. A singular case of attraction. **πολιτῶν** (for *πολίταις*) takes the

case of ὦν. The reason is that φυγῇ belongs not to ἀνδάνουσα but to ἀφίκετο, so that the relative clause really begins with φυγῇ, and πολιτῶν is inside of it, and therefore has to take the case of the relative; H. 809; G. § 154. The regular order would be ὦν πολιτῶν φυγῇ ἀφίκετο χθόνα, standing, of course, for πολίταις ὦν φυγῇ ἀφ. χθ., *pleasing the citizens to whose land she has come in her flight*. Had the poet written πολίταις, φυγῇ would be referred to ἀνδάνουσα, and the sentence so be misunderstood. — ἀνδάνουσα μέν is answered by νῦν δέ in 16, but there the expression is changed through the influence of the intervening parenthesis (14, 15); the idea is, 'pleasing to be sure (μέν) her adopted townsmen, and doing all she can to maintain friendly relations with her husband, but still (δέ) involved in strife from his nefarious conduct.'

13. αὐτή, *on her part*, in opposition to Jason's faithlessness.

14. ἥπερ by attraction for ὅπερ; H. 513 c.

16. νοσεῖ τὰ φίλτατα, *the tenderest ties are failing*.

19. αἰσυνῶ· βασιλεύει, ἄρχει. Hesych. The verb is found only here.

25, 26. συντήκουσα δακρύοις, *dissolving it (σῶμα) in tears*. Others construe συντήκουσα χρόνον, justifying it by τήκει βιοτήν, 141, which, however, is hardly parallel. — ἐπεὶ means here *ever since*. — ἡδίκημένη: supplementary participle; H. 799; GMT. § 113.

30. ἦν μὴ ποτε may be rendered *except when*.

33. ἀτιμάσας ἔχα, nearly = ἡτίμακεν, but with the idea of present continuance more prominent. This use of ἔχω with aor. partic. (GMT. § 112, 2, Note 7; H. 797) is a favorite one with Sophocles and Euripides, but is probably not found in Aeschylus.

35. ἀπολείπεσθαι is passive; *to be bereft*. μὴ ἀπολ. joined by synizesis.

37. νέον = κακόν, as often.

38. βαρεία, *resentful*.

40-43. The two first of these verses are plainly interpolated from 379 fig.; the others might be retained (reading μὴ for ἦ) but that τύραννον is awkward and obscure. If the princess is meant, there should be some designation of the gender.

45. καλλίνικον means *victory*, or *the honors of victory*; so τὸ καλλίνικον is used Pind. Nem. 3, 17. In the absence of the article it is better to take it as neuter, than as masc. with στέφανον understood, as some have done.

46. οἶδε παῖδες στείχουσι, *here come the children*. For this use of ὅδε, very common in the drama, see H. 678 a. — The learner should note the difference between τρόχος and τροχός.

49. The παιδαγωγός, who now enters with the two boys, is an aged family-slave of Jason's. Wealthy Greeks, when their boys had outgrown the nursery, gave them into the charge of such trusty slaves, whose duty

it was to attend them wherever they went. — **δεσποίνης** limits *οίκων κτήμα* taken together.

50. **τήνδε** should be translated *thus*. It is similarly used in 689 below.

52. **σοῦ** may depend upon either *μόνη* or *λείπεσθαι*.

57. The Greeks had a superstitious belief in the efficacy of confiding secret anxieties to the natural elements. Andromache (Andr. 91), Electra (Eur. El. 59, Soph. El. 89), and Creusa (Ion 885) do this. A disquieting dream is thus told to the air (Iph. Taur. 42) or the sun (Soph. El. 424).

58. **μολούση**, as if *μοι*, not *με*, had gone before. Several such places are found; thus Iph. Aul. 491, *ἄλλως τέ μ' ἔλεος...εἰσῆλθε συγγένειαν ἐννοοῦμένῳ*. Cp. below 744 and note. The comic poet Philemon (Athen. vii. p. 288) parodied this passage thus: A cook says,

*ὦσθ' ἱμερός μ' ὑπῆλθε γῇ τε κούρανῳ  
λέξαι μολόντι τοῦψον ὥς ἐσκεύασα.*

59. **γάρ** in questions expresses surprise. Transl. *what!*

60. **ζηλῶ σε**, *Enviably simplicity!* — **μεσοῖ** (schol. *ἀκμάζει*), *is at its height, or in the middle of its course*.

61. **μῶρος**: nom. of exclamation rather than of address. Medea is meant, *μῶρος* being used here exceptionally as adj. of two endings. This is a common thing with Euripides; cp. 1197 *δῆλος*, 1375 *ράδιοι*.

65. **πρὸς γενείου**: see on 709. — **σύνδουλον**, acc. of person (H. 553; G. § 164), the acc. of the thing being omitted.

67. **οὐ δοκῶν κλύειν**, *pretending not to be listening*. Cp. Hipp. 119, *μὴ δόκει τούτων κλύειν*. *οὐ δοκῶ* is used like *οὐ φημι*, *deny*, *οὐκ ἐῷ*, *forbid*, etc.

68. **παισσοῦς**, *the gaming-place*. So *οἱ ἰχθυῖς*, *the fish-market*, *τὰ λάχανα*, *the vegetable-market*, and others. The game of *παισσοί* resembled ours of draughts, in that it was played on a checkered board with *men* (*ψῆφοι*). There were several varieties of it.

69. All fountains were considered sacred. The famous Pirene, after first welling up near the top of the Acrocorinthus into a basin with no visible outlet, flowed underground and reappeared in the lower town, near the street leading to the Lechaeum, where it was adorned with handsome stonework, and was a favorite place of resort. See Curtius's Pelop. Vol. II. p. 528.

72. **σαφής**, *true, correct*.

73. **οὐκ εἶναι**: a very exceptional use of *οὐ*. The rule would require *μή*. The expression seems to be analogous to *χρῆ οὐ* with infin., which is frequent in Eurip.; see 294, 574; Androm. 100, *χρῆ δ' οὐποτ' εἰπεῖν οὐδέν' ὀλβιον βροτῶν*: Hipp. 645, *χρῆν εἰς γυναῖκα πρόσπολον μὲν οὐ περᾶν*: in cases, too, where it is impossible to say that *οὐ* forms with the infin. a simple idea. The usage arose probably thus: first the *οὐ* was put directly after the *χρῆ* for reasons of emphasis, still belonging to it (so Hipp. 507, and perhaps the

above passage of Androm.), then it gradually attached itself to the infin., and allowed itself to be separated from *χρή*.

74, 75. *πάσχοντας* is supplementary partic.; cp. 38. See GMT. § 112, 1; H. 800. — *εἰ καὶ* because of the negative idea implied in the foregoing question: (surely he will not) *even though he has*, etc.

76. *κηδευμάτων*: H. 581; G. § 175, 2. *λείπεται* expresses inferiority.

78, 79. *ἀπωλόμεσθα*: for the tense see GMT. § 19, N. 6. The nurse speaks for her mistress and the household. — *προσολίσομεν* seems to mean *receive in addition*. A corrupt gloss of Hesychius, *προσολισθηθε· προσδέξησθε*, confirms this view, though we should have expected the middle. It is the idiom by which, roughly speaking, involuntary acts are spoken of as if they were voluntary. So Hipp. 831 *ἀνακομίζομαι*, *am receiving on myself*; Heracl. 296, *ψυχὴν διακναῖσαι*, *lose his life*. Wecklein aptly compares *ἀποβάλλειν*, *lose*. — *ἐξηντληκέναι*: the figure is that of a boat which ships a fresh wave before the sailors have bailed the first one out. Cp. Ion 927.

83. *ὄλοιτο μὲν μή*: the meaning is, *I will not indeed wish that he may perish*. So Soph. Phil. 961, *ὄλοιό μῆπω, πρὶν μάθοιμ' εἰ καὶ πάλιν γνώμην μετοίσεις*. In both cases the curse is on the speaker's lips, but is revoked at the moment of utterance.

87. *κέρδους χάριν*, *from motives of selfishness*. This verse looks like an interpolation.

88. *εἰ—γε* = *ἐπεὶ*, *seeing that*; hence *οὐ*, instead of *μή*, is admissible. Jelf's Grammar, § 744, 1. The clause depends on *ἄρτι γιγνώσκεις*, the idea being, 'Are you just beginning, in view of Jason's neglect, to recognize the self-love of men? Did you never meet with an instance of it before?'

90, 91. *ἐρημώσας ἔχε*, *keep secluded*. — *πελάζω* is transitive here and 760, but has its ordinary intrans. sense, 101.

93. *δρασεύουσιν*: a desiderative verb; H. 472, Rem. j.

94. *πρὶν κατασκήψαι τινα*: "*πρὶν* with the infin. after *negative* sentences is rare in the Attic poets, but more frequent in the Attic prose." Goodwin, MT. § 106, 2, N. 2. *κατασκήπτω* only here takes the accus. It probably means, *strike down as with a thunderbolt* (Schol. *βλάψαι...ὄλον κεραυνῶσαι*); with dat. on the contrary, simply *fall upon*.

96, 97. Medea's voice is heard in soliloquy within the palace. The anapaests which she speaks are tinged with Doric forms, while those of the nurse are free from them. Anapaestic systems admit Dorisms only exceptionally, to impart greater solemnity or pathos. — *πόνων* is causal genitive in exclamation (H. 592 a; G. § 173, 3) joined to an adjective, as often; cp. 1028. — *πῶς ἂν ὀλοίμαν*; *would that I might die*. This form of wish (GMT. § 82, N. 5), not rare in tragedy, occurs again 173.

98. *τάδ' ἐκεῖνο*, *There it is!* literally, '*this is that*' (spoken of before). A common colloquial formula.

106 fig. *It is plain that the storm-cloud of wailing, just beginning to rise, will shortly dart upward with greater fury.* I have given ἀράξει (from ἀράσσω = ἀράττω), a suggestion of Elmsley's, based on an old variant ἀράξει found in the Schol. and one Ma. The common reading, ἀράψει, is hard to explain. Some take it as active for middle, '*will blaze forth*' (with lightning), but neither ἀπτειν nor its compounds ever use the active in this sense. Others supply Medea as subject, '*that she will light up,*' but this accords ill with the opening of the sentence, which shows that νέφος is meant as subject. By reading δῆλη or δηλοῖ we might retain ἀράψει. ἀρχῆς ἔξαιρόμενον = αἰρόμενον ἐξ ἀρχῆς, *rising from its starting-point.* With νέφος οἰμωγῆς cp. στεναγμῶν νέφος, H. F. 1140.

112. ὁ κατάρτοι παῖδες: in spite of the nurse's caution, the children, who here enter the house with their attendant, are espied by Medea.

116. σοι may be rendered *pray*. The exact sense is, '*What share do you fancy that,*' etc. The nurse does not, of course, intend this for Medea's ears.

118. ὑπερῶς, as implying anxiety, takes the construction of a verb of fearing. ὑπερ-, *exceedingly*.

119. δαυὰ τυράννων λήματα: the nurse has Medea in mind, by no means Creon, as Paley thinks. Medea, as a king's daughter, may be called a τυράννος. For the sentiment the Schol. compares Il. α, 80 fig.

122, 123. γάρ may be justified by supplying the thought, '*All this I disapprove,*' implied in the tone of the preceding sentence. Meanwhile, one might translate, *The fact is.* See, however, on 573. — ἐπ' ἰσοῦσιν, *on a footing of equality* with one's fellow-citizens, as in a democracy. To live thus, the nurse says, is better than to be a king. A like sentiment Ion 621, Iph. A. 16. — μεγάλως: not to be understood of regal state, which is entirely deprecated, but of a less dangerous magnificence, the sense being, '*securely at least, even at the expense of all grandeur.*'

125-130. Construe τοῦνομα νικᾷ εἰπεῖν, *the name is a better one to speak.* Notice πρῶτα μέν—τε in correlation; so below, 232, 1101 (cp. 429). — λῶστα (έστι): subject is τὰ μέτρια understood. — τὰ δ' ὑπερβάλλοντα, κ. τ. λ., *what exceeds due bounds avails no wholesome thing to mortals.* 'μηδέν ἄγαν' is the mainspring of Grecian ethics. All excess is ὕβρις, which the gods punish by sending ἀτη. — ἀπέδωκεν: gnomic aorist; H. 707; GMT. § 30. Its subject is still τὰ ὑπερβάλλοντα.

131. The chorus of Corinthian women now appears in the orchestra and sings the Parodos, which consists of four parts, — proode, strophe, anti-strophe, and epode, — separated from each other by anapaests of Medea and the nurse.

134. ἐπ' ἀμφιπύλου, κ. τ. λ.: the meaning of these words is doubtful. They are, I think, best taken thus, *I heard a cry near the doorway within the house*; the chorus inferring Medea's nearness to the door from the distinctness of her voice. ἐπὶ as Heracl. 239, ἐφ' οὗ. Other ways are possible: 1. *Being near the porch (Medea's) I heard a cry within the house.* But the chorus has just arrived and was not 'near the porch' when Medea last spoke, 111. 2. *Being near (my own) doorway I heard a cry in (Medea's) house.* So Wecklein. 3. Joining ἀμφ. μελάθ., *being near the double-doored house, I heard a cry within.* So Elmsley, Paley, Klotz. To this the same objection applies as to 1, and the position of ἔσω is, besides, unfavorable. 4. *I heard a cry inside, in the double-doored house;* ἐπὶ as in ἐπ' οἰκήματος, etc., but this use belongs rather to later prose. ἀμφίπυλος occurs only here. Klotz and Paley, taking it adjectively, refer it to the outer and inner door (αἰθλιος and μέταυλος), but the word as applied to a house can only mean *having a door on both sides*. But as a substantive τὸ ἀμφίπυλον can mean *doorway* or *vestibule*; cp. ἀμφίθυρον, Theocr. xiv. 42, and Schol. Il. ω, 323, "Κύπριοι δὲ παστάδα ἀμφίθυρον, Σικελοὶ δὲ τὴν αἰθλιον θύραν"; also πρόθυρον. — ἔσω, as often, is for ἐντός, without any idea of motion.

136. συνήδομαι for rejoicing at *misfortunes* is rare, but Hippol. 1286, τί τάλας τοῖσδε συνήδει; cp. Rhés. 958.

138. ἐπεὶ...κέκρανται, *since it* (the household, especially Medea, see v. 11) *has endeared itself to me.* κέκρανται (sing.) from κραίνω.

139. δόμοι, *house*, i. e. family. — τάδε, *all that*.

142. οὐδὲν παρ. φρένα, *nothing comforted at heart*.

147. βιοτάν, object of καταλυσάμαν. The same expression, frag. 984, καταλυσάμενους βιον; the active Suppl. 1004, καταλύσουσα βιοτον. — προλιπούσα (αὐτήν).

149. ἀχάν (= ἡχήν) is a correction of Nauck, after Elmsley. The Mss. have λαχάν, but the tragedians, so far as can be made out, use the second syllable of λαχή always long.

151 – 153. τίς σοί ποτε, κ. τ. λ.: *What longing for that dread resting-place* (the grave) *would fain hasten for thee the final issue of death?* ἀπλάτου is due to Elmsley, the Mss. having ἀπλάστου or ἀπλήστου; some retain the latter, understanding κώτας of the marriage-bed. The future σπείσει expresses present intention or will: GMT. § 25, 1, N. 6; Kühner, Ausf. Gramm. § 387, 4. Yet it is rather oddly used, and there is some probability in Weil's conjecture, who reads σπείσει θανάτου τελευτά, as a separate sentence: 'death will of itself come quickly enough.' On θανάτου τελευτάν see H. 561; G. § 167, Note.

154. μηδέν = μηδαμῶς. Not a common use. Androm. 88 and 463; Ar. Ran. 435; Aesch. Ag. 1438.

157. *Be not exasperated with him for this.* τόδε is properly the cognate accus., H. 547 c; G. § 159, N. 2. Elmsley takes it as *thus*, which, however, will not do in μή μοι τόδε χῶεο, Od. ε 215, ψ 213. See lexicon for the literal meaning of χαράσσεσθαι.

160 fig. Themis, as goddess of divine justice, is appealed to for redress of wrongs, as Soph. Elec. 1064. Hence she is called εὐκταία below, 169, and ικεσία, Aesch. Suppl. 360. Artemis is the special protectress of females, so naturally invoked by them, as Soph. Elec. 626, 1238; Aesch. Suppl. 1031; Eur. Phoen. 152, 191. — δρκοῖς ἐνδησαμένα, namely, when she consented to leave her home with him.

164, 165. αὐτοῖς μελάβροισι: H. 604 end; G. § 188, 5, Note. — πρόσθεν ἀδικεῖν: "the Greek idea was, that to begin the wrong, ὑπάρχειν ἀδικίας, involved the entire guilt, any retaliation being then lawful. Cf. 1372." (Paley.) πρόσθεν may be rendered *unprovoked*.

166, 167. ἀπενάσθην: from ἀπονάω; αἰσχροῦς goes with it. — κάσιν, Apsyrtus; see Introduction, § 11, and note on v. 1334.

169. Ζῆνα: whereas Medea, 160, has not invoked Zeus. This has troubled many commentators, ancient and modern. But Zeus δρκοῖς, the guardian of oaths, would be the first deity on whom Medea would naturally call; and we may suppose that in her previous outbursts (see v. 21) she has called upon him, and that the nurse forgets what particular divinities she has just appealed to. If an emendation is necessary, that of Nauck, Ζηνός for Ζῆνά θ' (cp. 208, and note), is easy.

171. ἐν τινι μικρῷ, *with* (the commission of) *any trifling deed*.

173. πῶς ἄν, κ. τ. λ., as 97.

176. εἰ πως, H. 830 at end; somewhat differently GMT. § 53, N. 2. — βαρύθυμος is *sullen*, opposed to δξύθυμος, *quick-tempered, impetuous*.

178. τὸ πρόθυμον = προθυμία, G. § 139, 2; H. 496, 6th ex.

181. φίλα καὶ τὰδ' αὖδα, sc. εἶναι. τὰδε = ἡμᾶς, more exactly *our party*; so Aesch. Pers. 1. The meaning is, *say too that we are her friends*.

182. σπεύσασα is Wecklein's emendation (who, however, gives τι πρὶν). — The subject of κακῶσαι, Medea, has to be understood.

184. εἰ, *as to whether*; a simple indirect question after an expression of fearing; GMT. § 46, Note 6 (c). Here and Heracl. 791 it stands for μή οὐ, but Andr. 61 for μή.

186. μόχθου χάριν τήνδε means *the favor of this trouble*, as it were μ. χ. τοῦδε. — ἐπιδώσω, *will grant freely*, beyond my obligations.

187. δέργμα: cognate acc. with ἀποταυροῦνται, as if with δέρεται.

190 fig. The tenor of the following passage is that music might, if rightly employed, be made a comfort in grief, whereas it is only used to heighten needlessly the merriment of feasts.

192 fig. The correlative of μέν is δέ, 195. — ἀκοάς = ἀκρόαματα.

197. ἐξ ὧν refers to λύπας. — θάνατοι, *violent deaths*.

200–203. ἵνα, *where*. — τείνουσι (*utter in long-drawn strains*) of the physical act of singing. — τὸ παρὸν πλήρωμα together. πλήρωμα, *physical satisfaction*. The sense: ‘feasts are merry enough without the aid of song.’ — The nurse here enters the house.

205 flg. Take λιγυρά adverbially (or rather as predicate adj. of effect, = ὥστε λιγυρά εἶναι). μογερά belongs with ἄχρα, and the phrase ἄχρα βοᾷ, as containing a simple idea (= θρηνεῖ), governs the accus. τὸν...κακόννυμφον. *And loudly crying forth her grievous woes she complains of the false bridegroom*, etc. Such constructions, in which a verb and accus., taken together, govern a second accusative, are not infrequent in tragedy. Soph. Elec. 124, τάκεις οἰμωγὰν τὸν Ἀγαμέμνονα; Bacch. 1289, τὸ μέλλον καρδία πῆδημ' ἔχει.

208. τὰν Ζηνὸς Θέμιν, *Zeus' own Themis*; that is, his πάρεδρος (Pind. Ol. 8, 27), and inseparable companion. So Θέμις Διὸς κλαρίου, Aesch. Suppl. 360. She is here said to have led Medea into Greece, the idea being that Medea went in reliance on Themis as guardian of the oaths of Jason.

211 flg. δι' ἄλα νύχιον, *over the sea in the night*. — πόντου κλῆδα: the strait of the Bosphorus; called ἀπέραντος, *impenetrable*, because of the Symplegades which guard it. ἀπέραντος has this meaning Aesch. Prom. 153 and 1078; elsewhere it means *endless*. Some give it the latter sense here, justifying it by Homer's Ἑλλήσποντος ἀπείρων, Il. ω 545. Both meanings of ἀπέραντος arise naturally, since περαίνω means either *pass through* or *go through with*.

214. Medea appears on the stage.

215 flg. A difficult passage. Probably the following interpretation (Seidler's) is the right one: *I know many haughty men, some from personal acquaintance (ὁμμάτων ἄπο), others who are strangers; and these (namely, both the above classes, all the σεμνοὶ) from their reserved demeanor have got an evil name and a reputation for indifference*. This use of ἀπ' ὁμμάτων, *with my eyes, from my own observation*, is found Aesch. Ag. 987; nearly the same Aesch. Suppl. 207, Soph. O. C. 14. ἐν θυραίοις, *among foreigners or strangers*, the usual meaning of θυραῖος in Eurip. The ἥσυχος πούς is one slow to make advances, not meeting one, as we say, half-way. (Some editors, with the Scholiast, explain τοὺς μὲν...θυραίους ‘some in retirement, others in public life.’) For κτᾶσθαι = *get the reputation of*, cp. I. T. 676, δειλίαν κεκτήσομαι, and Soph. Ant. 924.

220. δοτις after βροτῶν, H. 514 d, last part.

222–224. Strangers especially, she says, should adapt themselves (προσχωρεῖν) to their adopted land, though, to be sure, not even in citizens are stubbornness and ill-breeding (ἀμαθία) praiseworthy. Hermann sees in this last verse an allusion to the demagogue Cleón. The aorist ἦνεσα and



some others are used to denote a *feeling* or *resolution* (or the expression of the same) which has *already arisen* in the speaker's mind, where we employ the present. GMT. § 19, N. 5; H. 709.

226. *ψυχὴν διέφθακε*, has broken my heart.

228. *ἐν ᾧ πάντα*, for he with whom my all rested. — *γινώσκεις*: the Mss. have *γινώσκειν*, due, as the Schol. expressly says, to the actors, who misconceived the sense. *γινώσκω* and *γινώσκει* have also been conjectured.

231. *φυτόν*, like our creature, in a depreciatory sense.

232 fig. *πρῶτα μὲν* answered by *τε*: ('first buy the husband, then serve him') unless, indeed, the correlative is 235 fig. —  *χρημάτων ὑπερβολή*: rightly explained by Paley, "by outbidding others in the offer of a wealthy dower." Cp. Andr. 289, *ὑπερβολαῖς λόγων δυσφρόνων*, vying with each other in hard words. *ὑπερβάλλειν* means *outbid*. Euripides has transferred the usage of his own time to the heroic age, in which the custom was quite the reverse, the suitor bidding for and buying, as it were, his wife. — *τοῦτο, τὸ δεσπότην λαβεῖν*. For the expression cp. Soph. O. T. 1365, *πρεσβύτερον ἐστὶ κακοῦ κακόν*, an evil worse than evil.

235 fig. *ἀγών, τιακ*. — By *ἀπαλλαγὰς* is meant the *ἀπόλειψις* or formal separation from the husband, attainable to a woman only through a difficult process at law, and looked upon at best as scandalous. The husband, on the contrary, might repudiate (*ἀποπέμπεω*) his wife at pleasure. Here, again, Eurip. has Athenian institutions in mind.

238-240. The sense: 'a woman who has come by marriage into a foreign land has need (in order to live happily) of supernatural foresight, if she has learned nothing from her relatives as to the disposition of him who is to be her husband.' This is the best that can be made of the Mss. reading. *ὅτῃ* is equivalent to *οἷῳ*. Not the difficulty of selecting a husband is meant (for that is not compatible with the tense of *ἀφειγμένην*), but that of living agreeably with him afterwards. And to make this meaning plainer some alter the last line, reading *ὅπως* for *ὅτῃ*, or *χαρίσεται* for *χρηθήσεται*.

241, 242. *εἶ* goes with *ἐκπονουμέναισιν*. — *βίῳ, restively*, like an intractable horse.

245. *ἐπαυσε*: gnomic aor. See on 130.

247. *πρὸς μίαν ψυχὴν· τὴν τοῦ ἀνδρός*, Schol. Athenian custom confined women strictly to their homes. *βλέπων* implies devotion; cp. Ion 614, *εἰς δαμαρτα σὴν βλέπῃς*, and Andr. 179.

250. *κακῶς φρονούντες*: syntactically with *λέγουσι*, yet standing by itself; *ιστορητῇ θουγῇ*. Just so Heracl. 55.

252. *ἀλλ' οὐ γάρ, but* (enough said, for)...not; H. 870 d. — *ἦκα, ap-*

258. *μεθορμίσασθαι*, (*with whom*) *to seek a haven of refuge from*, etc. Properly, *to change moorings away from* something.

259. *τοσόνδε*: observe the rather unusual accus. of the thing with *τυγχάνειν*: cp. Phoen. 1666, οὐ γὰρ ἂν τύχοις τάδε. — *βουλήσομαι* for *βούλομαι*: the idea of the future fulfilment of the wish is in the speaker's mind and tries so to find expression. Just so Soph. Aj. 680, O. T. 1077, O. C. 1289.

261. *πόσιν δίκην*: the construction is unusual, but right; *τίνεσθαι τινα δίκην* strictly means *cause a man to pay a penalty*.

262. *ἦ τε* = *ἐκείνην τε ἦ*. The Mss. have *ἦν τε*, which cannot be satisfactorily explained. A man is said *γαμεῖν τινα*, a woman *γαμεῖσθαι τινι*, but what can *γαμεῖσθαι τινα* mean? As a case of attraction, *ἦν τε* is not justifiable, for in such places the nom. is invariably retained; see v. 515, Alc. 338 *στυγῶν μὲν ἦ μ' ἔτικτεν*, Or. 1165, Ion 669. Of other explanations the only one at all tenable is Hermann's, who thinks *γαμεῖσθαι* properly a causative middle, *to get* (one's self or another) *married*, and that *γαμοῦμαι τὴν θυγατέρα* can be said like *διδάσκομαι τὸν παῖδα*. He would then render, 'and her whom he (Creon) has given him to wife.' But, as no similar example can be found except it be Il. ι, 394 (and even this is not quite parallel) this use remains, for Attic, more than doubtful. Elmsley first gave *ἦ τε*.

263, 264. The proper correlative of *τᾶλλα μὲν* is *ὅταν δέ* below. See on 413. — *ἐς ἀλκήν* and *σίδ. εἰσορᾶν*, two separate modifiers of *κακή*.

271, 272. Creon appears with attendants (*ὀπαδοί*, 335). — *εἶπον*, *I command* (finally, as something already resolved on), see on *ἤνεσα*, 223.

278, 279. *κάλῳ* are reefing-ropes; so *ἐξίεναι κάλῳ* = *shake out reefs, set sail* (= *λῦσαι πῶδα*, Hec. 1020), cp. Tro. 94, H. F. 837. The figure is that of one ship pursuing another. — *εὐπρόσοιστος ἐκβασίς*, *accessible landing-place*. *προσφέρεσθαι* is used of putting in to shore, Xen. Cyr. 5, 4, 6.

284. *συμβάλλεται...δείματος*, *many circumstances contribute to this fear*, literally, *contribute* (a part) *of this fear*. H. 574 e; G. § 170. In the next line explanatory asyndeton; H. 854.

288. *τὸν δόντα*, κ. τ. λ. Medea's own words, as reported to Creon.

293. *δόξα*, *my reputation*, for *σοφία*. — 294. *χρὶ δ' οὐποθ'*: see on 73.

295. *ἐκδιδάσκεισθαι*, *have instructed*, causative middle; H. 689 b; G. § 199, Note 2. — *σοφούς*: predicate adj. of effect, = *ὥστε σοφούς εἶναι*: cp. Elec. 376, *διδάσκει δ' ἄνδρα...κακόν*. The thought of the following verses was suggested by the poet's own experience. See Introd. § 1.

296. *χωρὶς...ἀργίας*, *for, aside from the charge of sloth which they have to bear besides*. *ἔχειν ἀργίαν* is said like *κτᾶσθαι ῥαθυμίαν*, 217. This idiomatic use of *ἄλλος*, *on the other hand, besides*, is well known. H. 538 e (end). So Ion 161, *ἄλλος...κύκνος*, *a swan besides*.

304. Interpolated from 808.

306. ὅσπερ...ἔξαμ. depends on ὥδ' ἔχει μοι.

314, 315. καὶ γάρ has not its usual force here, but καί = καίπερ and goes with ἡδικοημένοι. — ἡδικοημένοι: when a woman speaks of herself in the plural, she uses masculine, not feminine forms; H. 518 d. — κραισσομένων: H. 581 end; G. § 175, 2.

316, 317. εἰσω φρενῶν with βουλεύεις. — βουλεύεις, lest you are devising. In strictness, the pres. subj. in such cases refers not to a present act, but the future disclosure of a present act ('lest it may turn out that you are now plotting'), so that the rule (GMT. §§ 12 and 20) that the subjunctive in final and object clauses refers to the future, still holds good. The Mss. here have βουλεύεις, which could be retained only by translating, 'lest you may (prove to) have plotted.' This use of aor. subj. is Homeric (Il. α 555; κ 97), but I know of no Attic example. The correction is Elmsley's.

319, 320. ὥς δ' αὖτως, and just so. This adverb is often written αὖτως, but wrongly. It comes from αὐτός, with changed accent, not from οὗτος. ὥς αὖτως (ὡσαύτως) is simply the ablative of ὁ αὐτός. — φυλάσσαν, to keep watch of, not quite the same as φυλάσσεσθαι.

322. ἄρα: perf. of ἀραρίσκω. Do not confuse this perf. ἄρα with the 2d aor. ἄραρον, ἡράρον. The former is intrans., the latter transitive.

324. πρὸς σε γονάτων, sc. ἑκτερεύω. In adjurations, σε is commonly placed between πρὸς and its genitive (so per te deus oro), and often the verb which governs it is left out. Cp. Alc. 275, μὴ πρὸς σε θεῶν τλής με προδοῦναι. H. 885. On γονάτων see note on 709. Medea clings to Creon in the attitude of a suppliant here and again 336.

329. (Well do you speak of country) for to me at least 't is far the most precious thing I have, save only my children. Meaning that the safety of both requires Medea's banishment. — ἔμοιγε in opposition to Medea; he really loves his country, he means, and is not minded to betray it, as Medea has here.

331. That, I fancy, is just as circumstances come about. ἔπειτα is here a simple relative, and so takes δὲ; GMT. § 62. — καὶ emphasizes τύχαι ('circumstances too influence the matter').

334. (Your troubles forsooth!) 'T is I who am in trouble, and in trouble enough, too. For the two meanings of the perf. κέχημαι see lexicon, and cp. 347. The last part of this verse is added simply for fulness, according to the idiom of confirming a statement by denying its opposite, as λυπρὸν θεῖαμα κοῦ φίλον, Tro. 1157. Others explain, 'I have no need of other troubles, and so cannot relieve you of yours,' in answer to the words ἀνδράλαξον πόνων, as if Creon had asked her to take his troubles on her own shoulders. This involves a sort of grim witticism, and seems rather trifling.

336. *ἀλλά, nay rather.* Cp. Hel. 939, *μὴ δῆτα, παρθέν', ἀλλά σ' ἱκετεύω τὸδε.*

338. *τοῦτο : τὸ μὴ φεύγειν.*

341 – 343. *φροντίδ', accus., not dative. — ἧ, qua; in what direction and so whither. — ἀφορμήν, resources, means, properly a starting-point. The meaning, place of safety (Lidd. & Scott), is wrong. — οὐδὲν προτιμᾷ, does not at all care or think it worth while.*

346. *εἰ φευξόμεθα : GMT. § 56.*

349. The perf. *διέφθορα* is always transitive (= *διέφθαρκα*) in Attic poets.

350. *ἑξαμαρτάνων : see on ἡδίκημένη, 26.*

356. *δράσαις*, the best Mss., which without *ἄν* is, of course, a solecism. Others *δράσεις*. But these two verses are in all likelihood interpolated; the words *λέλεκται...ὅδε* mark the end of the speech. Creon here departs.

358. *μελέα...ἀχέων : see on 96.*

359 flg. I give with Kirchhoff the reading of the best Mss. Take *τίνα* with *σωτήρα*; *what savior through hospitality...? δόμον* and *χθόνα* are appositives. *πρὸς ξενίαν* adverbially, like *πρὸς βίαν*, *πρὸς φιλίαν*, strictly *conformably to, or in the way of hospitality*; with *σωτήρα* as with a verb ('whom to save you in hosp.'), cp. on 479. It must be confessed, however, that this is hard, and that probably *ἐξευρήσεις* is to be bracketed with Weckl., *τίνα* then going with *ξενίαν*. The easier reading *προξενίαν* rests on slender authority.

361. *κλύδωνα κακῶν : a frequent metaphor; Suppl. 824, H. F. 1087, Hipp. 822, Aesch. Pers. 599.*

365. *ἀλλ' οὐτι...πω, but things are not yet come to that pass, don't think it.* That *πω* belongs not with *μὴ δοκεῖτε*, but the preceding, is seen from Arist. Eq. 843, Aesch. Prom. 511, where the same idiom occurs. The confused order here heightens the intensity.

367. *τοῖσι κηδεύσασιν : Creon is meant.*

370. *οὐδέ—οὐδέ, not even—nor. — χεροῖν, dative, with my hands.* If genitive, the sing. *χερός* would have been used. See note on 709.

372, 373. *ἑλεῖν, thwart. — ἀφῆκεν, has left me free to remain. ἀφίημι* is not often so used with infinitive (except it be of a verb of motion, Soph. Phil. 1349), but Plat. Legg. 7, 806 c, *τὸ θῆλυ...ἀφιέντα τρυφᾶν*; and ibid. 2, 657 e.

382. *ὑπερβαίνουσα*, said of passing the threshold, here in *entering* (so *ὑπερβαλὼν πύλας*, Alc. 829), but Ion 514, in *coming out*.

384, 385. *κράτιστα : H. 518 a. — τὴν εὐθείαν (ὁδόν), adverbial. — πεφ. σοφαί, namely, we women, the sex in general.* Elmsley conjectured *σοφοί*, so as to mean Medea herself: see on 314. But poison was a recognized woman's weapon; see Ion 616, 845, and frag. 467.

386. *καὶ δὴ τεθνᾶσι, suppose now they are dead.* Cp. 1107.

389. *πίργος*: metaphorical.

391. *But if a fate devoid of all resource decrees my exile.*

393. *τόλμης τὸ κάρτερον, the height of daring.*

396. Medea has an image of Hecate, patroness of witchcraft, in her house. Such private shrines, *ἑκάταια*, were common at Athens.

398 fig. The *γάμοι* will be bitter to bride and bridegroom, the *κῆδοι* and *φυγαί* to Creon.

400. *μηδέν* is, of course, adverbial. Cp. Soph. El. 716, *φείδοντο κέντρων οὐδέν*, also Aj. 115, Eur. Hec. 1044, H. F. 1400.

404. *τοῖς Σισυφείοις*, κ. τ. λ.: *from the Sisyphians and from Jason's bride*. The dative with *ὀφλισκάνω* denotes the person *from whom* or *in whose mind* anything is incurred. *Σισύφειοι* is a contemptuous name for the Corinthians, from Sisyphus, their ancient king, who was *κέρδιστος ἀνδρῶν* (Il. § 153), and otherwise in ill repute. Creon especially is meant. *Wedlock* is put for the *bride*, as Andr. 103. (Others, joining Σ. and γάμ., explain '*from the marriage of Sisyphus's descendant and Jason*,' as dat. of cause, I suppose. But the second *τοῖς* forbids this; moreover, the context requires dat. of the person whose laughter is feared. Probably, however, we should read *τοῖσδ'* for *τοῖς τ'*: '*from this Sisyphian bride of Jason's.*') )

405. *πατρός*: Aetes, son of Helios. Od. κ 138, *Ἀμφω* (Aetes and Circe) *δ' ἐκγεγάτην φασσιμβρότου Ἑλλοιο.*

406. *ἐπιστάσαι*: referring back to 400. — *πρὸς δὲ καὶ περὶ γυναῖκες*, and, besides, we (I and the rest of my sex) are women.

410. Medea remains on the stage during the choral song, the burden of which is: (1) The infidelity of men; men will, the chorus says, henceforth have that name for faithlessness which hitherto has been borne by women. (2) The forlorn condition of Medea. — *ἄνω ποταμῶν*, κ. τ. λ.: "*Rivers flowing backward*" was a proverbial expression for whatever happens contrary to the ordinary course of things. — *ἱερῶν*: all rivers are sacred.

413 fig. *ἀνδράσι μὲν* is answered by *τὰν δ' ἐμάν*, not *θεῶν δέ*. The first *δέ* is only continuative, or at most but slightly adversative. Just so 263 fig. It is a question whether we ought to read *τε* in such cases. — *θεῶν πίστις*, *faith plighted in the sight of the gods*. (Paley.) — *τὰν δ' ἰφάμαι*, *report will bring about a change to my (that is ours, women's) life, so that it shall have a good reputation*.

421 fig. *μοῦσαι παλ. δοιδᾶν*, *the strains of ancient lays*. — *ὕμνεσαι* = *ὑμνοῦσαι*. This kind of contraction is rare in tragedy: Hipp. 167 *ἀδρεῖν*, Iph. A. 739 *μυθεῖσαι*. *ὕμνεῖν* has a bad sense here, as not unfrequently. Eurip. was thinking of passages in Homer and Hesiod, but especially of the iambs of Archilochus.

424 flg. οὐ γάρ, κ. τ. λ.: the sense is, 'we women have not the poetic gift, or we might ourselves sing a song in answer to men.' γάρ is used in anticipation of the following sentence, the idea being, 'for a song might easily be sung, though I cannot myself sing it.' — ἀντάχῃσ' ἄν, *would* (proceed to) *sing*. See on 1351. — ὥπασε θέσπιν ἀοιδάν: Homeric; Odyss. θ 498.

428 flg. μακρὸς δ' αἰών, κ. τ. λ.: *a long life* (the experience of a long life) *has* (i. e. can furnish) *much to say about...*, etc. — μέν—τε: see on 125. — μοῖραν, *mutual relations*, properly *part* or *share* in life in relation to one another.

431 flg. πατρῶος shortens the penult often in Eurip., only, however, in lyrical passages or anapaests. Many critics distrust the Mss. and would restore πάτριος everywhere. — ὀρίσασα, *parting, passing between*. (Others, *passing the limits of*, as in Aesch. Suppl. 544, γαίαν ὀρίζει, but this sense seems natural only with γαίαν, πόλιν, and the like.)

436. κοίτας λέκτρον: a common pleonasm; Hipp. 154, κοῖτα λεχέων, Iph. T. 857, κλισία λέκτρων, Alc. 925, H. F. 798, Soph. Ant. 425, Aesch. Pers. 543.

439. χάρις, *reverence*.

442 flg. μεθορμίσασθαι, as 258. — πάρα = πάρεισιν. — τῶν δὲ... ἐπανάστα, *but another princess, more potent* (to charm) *than that couch* of thine, *has risen up against thy household*. — οὔτε—δέ instead of οὔτε—τε, by a slight anacoluthon; cp. H. 855 b: so Soph. Trach. 1151, οὔτε μήτηρ... παίδων δέ, and elsewhere.

446. οὐ νῦν, κ. τ. λ.: cp. 292.

451, 452. κάμωι μὲν, κ. τ. λ.: *for myself indeed I care not; go on forever*, if you choose, *saying that...*, etc. — Ἰάσων outside its clause, yet retained in the nomin.; cp. Bacch. 173, ἴτω τις, εἰσάγγελλε Τειρεσίας ὅτι ζητεῖ νῦν.

453, 454. τυράννους, *the royal family*. — πᾶν κέρδος, *clear gain*. — φνυγῇ, *with exile* only, and not rather with death.

456. ἀφήρουν: impf. of attempted action.

459, 460. καὶ τῶνδε, *even after this*. — τὸ σὸν δὲ προσκ. in opposition to ἀπαρηκώς: *not having failed my friends, but, on the contrary, providing for thy interests*. ἀπειπεῖν (ἀπαγορεύω, ἀπαυδῶ) is construed with the dative in two ways. (1) Dat. of disadv.; *flag, or give out in serving*; as ἀπαυδᾶν φίλοις, *deesse amicis*, Andr. 87; and in this place. (2) Dat. of cause; *sink under, give out in*; so ἀπειπεῖν κακοῖς, ἀλγεί, πόνοις, Or. 91, Hec. 942, Alc. 487. In both these cases the verb has its meaning of *tire, flag*. Quite distinct is (3) its use with accus., meaning *renounce, disown*; ἀπειπ. πόνους, ἐστλαν, Suppl. 343, H. F. 1354, Alc. 737; and, furthermore, (4) the meaning *forbid*.

463. καὶ γὰρ εἰ, *for even if*; καὶ going with εἰ, and γὰρ referring to ἤκω above, the intermediate sentence being parenthetical.

465 flg. τοῦτο γάρ, κ. τ. λ.: *for this* (the term παγκάκιστε) *is the bitterest reproach for thy unmanliness which I can utter in language* (γλώσση), though I feel yet deeper scorn in my heart.

468. Interpolated from 1324.

469. θράσος in a good sense, = θάρσος.

474. κακῶς goes with κλύω as well as λέξασα. The student will remember that κακῶς κλύω (ἀκούω) is passive of κακῶς λέγω.

476. A noteworthy example of Euripidean *sigmatism*, a trait ridiculed by the comic poets. Cp. 330, 404, 1217, and for other alliterations 323, 340.

479. ζεύγλαισι: dative of means with ἐπιστάτην as if with a verb (ἐπιστατοῦντα). — θανάσ. γόνυ: see Introd. § 11.

482. κτείνασα: by proxy. She put the dragon to sleep by her enchantments, and so enabled Jason to kill it. Similarly just below, 486, ἀνέκταται. H. 686. — ἀνίσχον, κ. τ. λ.: *held up for you a torch of safety*. (Wecklein, however: *rise on you as a guiding star*.)

485. πρόθυμος μᾶλλον = προθυμότερα. For the second comparative σοφωτέρα see H. 660 b.

490, 491. Childlessness of a wife was held to justify her divorce and the taking of another. — συγγνωστά: see on κράτιστα, 384. The best Maa. συγγνωστών ἦν, which some defend on the principle of χρῆν, εἰκὸς ἦν, etc. (GMT. § 49, 2, N. 3). But these imperfects are regularly used without ἄν only when the necessity or propriety is *not met by the facts*. In the present case συγγνωστών ἦν would mean, 'you would be justified in doing what you are now *not doing*,' but συγγνώστ' ἄν ἦν, 'you would be justified in doing what you are now *not justified in doing*.' Of course, the latter is the meaning here. Infractions of this usage are found, it is true, but they are rare. Moreover, συγγνώστ' ἄν ἦν is certain Elec. 1026 in an exactly similar passage.

493, 494. ἦ—ἦ in indirect disjunctive questions, after Homeric fashion, occurs in a few passages of the tragic poets. Many discredit it, and substitute εἰ—ἦ. — θεσμά: heterogeneous plural of θεσμός, only here and Soph. frag. 90.

497. τῶνδε γονάτων: genitive instead of nominat., because the speaker has ἐλαμψανού in her mind. — κεχρώσμεθα refers to the clasping both of hands and knees when Jason was a suppliant for her favor. See on 709.

500. δοκοῦσα μὲν τί.....δμως δέ, *expecting what good office from you, forebode?* (None, of course.) *Still I will do it.*

503. οὕς. καὶ πάτρην: cp. 163. — ἀφικόμεν, *came hither*.

506 flg. οἱ οἰκοθεν φίλοι are *kindred, friends* by natural relationship. Cn. An Ir. 979, τῆχαι ταῖς οἰκοθεν, *domestic calamities*; Pind. Pyth. 8. 72,

τὸ οἰκοθεν, *his family ties*; Troad. 963, τὰ οἰκοθεν κείνα, *those natural endowments*; Troad. 648, 371. — οὓς δέ, Pelias's family. — οὐκ ἐχρῆν, *not ought not, but had no need, no motive*.

509. πολλαῖς μακαρίαν, *happy in the view of* (H. 601 end) *many women*, i. e. envied by them. Said with bitter irony, in remembrance of former promises of Jason.

512. εἰ—γε as 88.

515. ἦ τε = καὶ ἐμὲ ἦ.

516 flg. δς: ἄν is omitted; GMT. § 63, 1. (b). — τεκμήρια: the touchstone, βάσανος, is meant. The same sentiment, Hipp. 925.

523. This verse is borrowed from Aesch. Theb. 62. — ὥστε = ὥσπερ, not rare in tragedy, see 1200, 1213.

524. ἀκροισι λαίφους κρασπέδοις, i. e. with furled sails. Medea's γλωσσαλγία is likened to a sudden gale.

526. καί emphasizes, not λῖαν merely, but the whole clause: *since, moreover* (besides reviling me), *you exaggerate the favors* you have done me. Cp. Soph. Phil. 380, O. T. 412.

529. ἐπιφθονος for Jason, because apparently boastful. The sense: 'You have intelligence enough to understand, though it is invidious for me to relate, that it was Love that,' etc. The antithesis (μέν—ἀλλά) is between νοῦς and λόγος.

532. ἀλλ' οὐκ, κ. τ. λ.: *but I will not undertake to settle the point with over-nicety*; the question, that is, to whom he owes his safety.

533 flg. γὰρ οὖν, *for really*. — τῆς ἐμῆς σωτηρίας, *in return for saving me*, genit. of price with λαμβάνω (Orest. 502), as if it were ἀντιλαμβάνω.

538. μὴ πρὸς ἰσχύος χάριν, *without giving way to violence, without allowing violence its sway*. Cp. H. F. 779, ἀνομία χάριν διδούς.

542 flg. χρυσός and ὑμνήσαι are parallel. — γένοιτο: GMT. § 34, 1 (a).

546. ἀμιλλαν, κ. τ. λ. The same words Suppl. 428.

548 flg. γεγώς: supplem. partic. — σώφρων, *chaste, virtuous*; the opposite of ἀκρατής, *incontinent, lustful*. His proof of σοφία, 551 flg., of σωφροσύνη, 555 flg., of φιλία, 559 flg. — ἔχ' ἥσυχος: Medea had made a gesture of impatience.

554. ἡ παῖδα γῆμαι: added after τοῦδε as explanatory of it. So Heracl. 298.

555. ἡ σὺ κνίξει, *the thing at which you are nettled*.

557. ἀμιλλαν πολύτεκνον = ἀμιλλαν πολυτεκνίας. A compound adjective used for the genit. of its derivative abstract substantive; a favorite Euripidean figure. So ἀμιλλα φιλόπλουτος, ἔρις ἀβρόπλουτος, ξενόφονοι τιμαί, εὐτεκνοὶ χρησμοί (I. T. 412, 1148, 776, Ion 423): see also 1010.

560. γινώσκων: parallel to ἐχθαίρων, πεπλ., ἔχων above.

564. εἰς ταυτό, *on the same footing*, making no distinction, that is, be-



tween them and Medea's children; by this the latter would gain in consideration; cp. 596. — In the next line, Elmsley's conjecture, εὐδαιμονοῦμεν, certainly improves the sense.

565, 566. τί δέ; implies οὐδὲν δέ, hence τε—τε. — παῖδων: i. e. 'any more children.' — λάω (sc. τέλη) = λυσιτελεῖ, as below 1112, 1362, and frequently in tragedy.

573 flg. The same sentiment again, Hipp. 616 flg., at greater length. — χρῆν: imperf. of unfulfilled necessity; GMT. § 49, 2, Note 3; G. § 222, N. 2; H. 703. — γάρ, *the fact is*. It may, like that in 122, be explained by assuming an ellipsis: 'Things are not as they ought to be, *for* .'. But it must be borne in mind that γάρ does not always mean *for*, and is not always a causal particle. Its original force (γε + ἄρ) must have been intensive and consecutive, something like *surely then*, and the recognition of this accounts for many uses of γάρ which otherwise can only be laboriously explained. So particularly the γάρ of wishes, not only in the formula εἰ γάρ, but by itself (κακῶς γάρ ἐξέλοιτο Cycl. 261; Orest. 1147; Hipp. 640), which might be roughly rendered *would then indeed*. And so it may be taken here, as χρῆν is nearly the same as ὀφελον. On this matter consult Klotz ad Devar. p. 231 flg., Baumlein's Untersuch. üb. d. gr. Partikeln, p. 68 flg.; Kühner's Ausf. Gramm. II. p. 724. — οὐκ εἶναι: see on 73. — This speech of Jason's, 522–575, is just equal in length to Medea's, 465–519, each having 53 verses, excluding, of course, 468. This correspondence is common in the argumentative parts of Eurip. plays.

577. παρὰ γνώμην, *contrary to your mind or wishes*.

580. ἐμοί, *to my mind*: see on 404.

582 flg. γλώσση with περιστελεῖν. — αὐχῶν, *presumptuously fancying*. — οὐκ ἄγαν σοφός: Cp. Hec. 1192, where it is said that such men are σοφοί, but not διὰ τέλους σοφοί.

584 flg. ὥς καὶ σὺ, κ. τ. λ. There is a slight turn in this sentence, from an assertion to a prohibition: *As for instance you — had best not undertake to do, etc.*; the full thought being, 'as, for example, you are a person of this sort, but beware of attempting your sophistries with me.' For ὥς καὶ σὺ cp. Andr. 703; Hipp. 651. — ἰκτενέ: a wrestler's phrase.

588. τῷδε λόγῳ: *this argument in favor of my marrying the princess*.

591 flg. The thought is abridged; it is in full: *It was not that* (fear of my anger) *that restrained you* (from telling me) *but the consciousness that your real motive in deserting me was a different one, namely that your marriage with a foreigner was likely to prove not reputable for your old age*; i. e. if continued through life.

594, 595. γῆμαι: infin. after οἶδα instead of participle. This occurs only with ἴσθι, chiefly after the phrase εἰ τόδ' ἴσθι, seldom elsewhere (Soph. Ant. 473, Phil. 1329). — λέκτρα βασιλείων, *the royal bride*. βασιλείων is

generalizing plural ; of a royal personage, of royalty. The Ms. reading λ. βασιλέως could only mean a king's wife. The correction is Elmsley's. — θέλων : as if ἔγημα had preceded.

598, 599. *Let me not have prosperity which shall be galling, nor wealth which shall vex my soul ;* such as that must be which Jason claims to have provided for her. — κνίξοι : GMT. § 64, 1.

600. οἶσθ' ὥς...φανεῖ ; equivalent to οἶσθ' ὥς μετευξαμένη σοφωτέρα φανεῖ ; since μετεύξει is in thought subordinate to φανεῖ.

606. γαμοῦσα, *by taking another wife*, as you did ?

608. ἀραία, *a curse, curse-bringing*. A dark threat. ἀραῖος has this sense Hipp. 1415, Iph. T. 778, and elsewhere.

609. ὥς with future indic. at the beginning of a speech, expressive of firm resolution ; an Euripidean idiom. Sometimes, as here, in opposition to the preceding, sometimes in vehement assent. Usually explained (ἴσθι) ὥς, but perhaps rather the ὥς is causal : 'It is useless to talk, *for*—' ; 'Have no fear about that, *for*—.' — κρινούμαι, *litigabo*. — τῶνδε : H. 577, Rem. c ; G. § 173, 1, note.

613. σύμβολα : in contracting ξενία, guest and host broke a small bone (ἀσπράγαλος), and retained each a half, to be used thereafter as a credential either by themselves or others whom they might send ; an interesting usage of the heroic age.

617. δίδου, *offer* ; GMT. § 11, N. 2 ; H. 702 end.

619. ἀλλ' οὖν : *well, at any rate*.

624. δωμάτων ἐξώπιος : an expression peculiar to Eurip. (Alc. 546, Suppl. 1038), and ridiculed by Aristophanes, Thesm. 881.

625, 626. σὺν θεῷ δ' εἰρήσεται, *with leave of Heaven be it said* ; a formula to avoid the appearance of presumption and consequent divine displeasure. — ἀρνεῖσθαι, *will be fain to disown*.

627 flg. Jason having departed, the chorus (1) praises moderation and contentment in love and wedlock, and (2) bewails the lot of the homeless. Medea remains upon the stage. — ὑπὲρ—ἄγαν, *plus nimio* ; as it were, 'in over-excess.' Sometimes joined ὑπεράγαν.

629 flg. παρέδωκαν : gnomic aorist. The plural of aor. in -κα, Heracl. 319 ; Ion, 1200 ; H. F. 590 ; Or. 1166, 1641. — ἀνδράσιν = ἀνθρώποις, as 675. — ἄλις, (just enough and no more) *in moderation*, as Alc. 907. — ἔλθοι : GMT. § 54, 2, (a).

633 flg. χρῦσέων : χρύσεος has ὕ often in lyric passages, a license borrowed from the lyric poets. Pindar has even χρῦσός once. — ἱμέρω χρ. : as with a poison. — οἶστόν : obj. of ἐφείλγς. Aphrodite appears here armed with Eros' bow.

635. στέργοι, *lovingly watch over*, as a parent over children.

639 flg. θυμὸν ἐκπλήξασα : see on 8. — ἀπτολέμους, κ. τ. λ., *but favor-*

ing peaceful unions may she with keen judgment regulate the conjugal relations of women.

647. οἰκτρότατον ἄχέων, *pitiabile from its woes*; ἄχέων genit. of cause, as with οἰκτεῖρω. Cp. μοῖρας εὐδαίμονες, Iph. T. 1491.

648 flg. θανάτῳ.....ἐξανύσασα: *rather (than live an exile) may I perish by death, whenever I have come to that day*. This is, I think, the best understanding of this perplexing sentence. ἐξανύω, ἀνύω often mean *reach, arrive at*, usually, it is true, with accus. of *place*; but Tro. 595, ἔνυ δ' ἦνυσε δούλια, very much as here. (Others render *having ended this life*; but ἡμέρα in this sense must have an adjective with it. Hermann's explanation, *moriar potius quam hunc diem exegerim*, according to which ἐξανύσασα stands for πρὶν ἐξανύσαι, is untenable.)

654. μῦθον: obj. of ἔχω. — φράσασθαι, *to receive into my mind, to recognize the truth of*.

659. ἀχάριστος δλοῖτο, *may he perish gracelessly or dismally*; without having any χάρις, *grace or favor*, shown him. Jason, the author of all this unhappiness, occurs suddenly to mind. — δτω πάρεστιν, *who can find it in his heart*. — καθαρὰν (unless indeed καθαρᾶν) poetically joined to κληῖδα instead of φρενῶν: *undoing the bolt of a guileless heart*, disclosing frankly one's real character. — ἀνολίξαντα after δτω, justified by the infin. τιμᾶν. — ἐμοὶ μὲν: opposition to others (ἄλλοις δέ) is implied.

663. Aegæus enters from the right, as coming from the harbor (682).

668. ὀμφαλον γῆς: a white stone in the nave of the Delphic temple was believed to mark the centre of the earth.

669. ὅπως γένοιτο: indirect for πῶς γένηται; GMT. § 88, N. 1.

675. κατ' ἄνδρα: H. 660 c. — συμβαλεῖν: epexegetical infin.; 'words too wise for a man in respect of understanding them'; that is, *too wise for a man to understand*. Notice ἄνδρα = ἀνθρωπον.

676. μὲν (without δέ) is not unfrequent in questions. Cp. 1129.

677. ἐπεὶ τοι καί: this formula means *especially as*.

679. The scholiast gives as the current form of the oracle: —

ἄσκού τὸν προύχοντα πόδα, μέγα φέρτατε λαῶν,  
μὴ λύσης πρὶν γονὸν Ἀθηναίων ἀφικέσθαι.

(so, with slight variations, Plutarch and Apollodorus), and explains its meaning thus: ἄσκού οὖν τῆς γαστροῦς, πόδα δὲ τὸ μόριον, παρόσον ὡς ὁ ποδεὼν τοῦ ἄσκού προέχει. λέγει οὖν ὅτι ἐχρησέ μοι μὴ συνελθεῖν ἑτέρῳ (ἐταίρῳ, Elmsl.) πρὶν ἐπιβῆναι τῆς πατρίδος. Medea attempts no solution of the mystery.

682. ὥς τί χρήζων: GMT. § 109, Note 4, (a). Exactly, *under the feeling what need?* ὥς is not quite meaningless.

684. ὥς λέγουσι refers to εὐσεβέστατος. Of Pelops' other sons, Atreus and Thyestes at least were not εὐσεβεῖς at all.

688. Medea turns away as if to end the interview abruptly. Aegeus' attention is thus drawn to her sorrowful appearance.

689. ἴδῃ, *thus*: see on 50.

690. *Aegeus, I have*, etc.

694. ἐφ' ἡμῖν, not simply *besides me*, but *superseding me, in authority over me*. γαμεῖν ἐπὶ τινι or ἐπιγαμεῖν τινι is used of taking a second wife 'over the head,' as we might say, of some one, either the first wife or the children. Alc. 305, 372, Orest. 589, Herod. IV. 154.

695. ἦ πού, if right, must mean, *Is it possible that—?* (*Really in any way—?*) But it is not elsewhere used in questions implying surprise or incredulity as to a statement already made, but in those containing a suggestion of the speaker's, which he brings forward with more or less hesitation. Cp. 1308. Accordingly the conjecture μή πού (Weil) has much in its favor.

696. πρὸ τοῦ: H. 525 d; G. 143, 2.

698. μέγαν γ' ἔρωτα, namely, ἐρασθεῖς. The sense: 'Yes, 't is a new passion, and a mighty one, that made him desert me. Inconstancy is his nature.' She next explains that this passion is ambition for rank.

699. ἴτω = ἐάσθω. 'Never mind him.' Soph. O. T. 669, ὁ δ' οὖν ἴτω.

703. ἦν: GMT. § 11, Note 6.

707. ἐπῆνεσα: see on 223.

708. λόγῳ μὲν οὐχί, κ. τ. λ.: *he pretends not to, but he is willing to be patient under the affliction*. This last with irony, as it were Jason's own hypocritical language. She means that he is secretly glad of it. So understood, the vulgate, which has caused some perplexity, seems to give good sense.

709. Suppliants clasped the knees, grasped the right hand, or stroked the beard of the person supplicated.

715. εὐβίος θάνοις: that is, 'may you live happy till your death.'

717. δέ, as often, where γάρ would have been in place.

720. θεῶν: the gods are the guardians of suppliants; Medea, in saying *ἡκεῖνα γίγνομαι* (710), had put herself under their protection.

722. φροῦδός εἰμι, *am helpless, undone, have utterly failed*. Cp. Heracl.

703. (Others, *am eager*; but there is no example of such a use of φροῦδος.)

724. παράσομαι—δίκαιος ὢν, *shall be justified in trying*. According to Greek views of the *jus gentium* it would be right for Aegeus to protect Medea if she fled of herself to him as a suppliant, but not to take her himself out of another's dominions.

725–728. These four lines seem to be a paraphrase of 723, 724, 729, 730, repeating a part of the thought in a diluted form. They seem to have been written as a substitute for them, by some one who thought the original expression obscure. Hence I have followed Kirchhoff in bracketing them.

Nauck rejects 723, 724, and 729, and places 730 after 726. — *οὐ σε μὴ μεθῶ*: GMT. § 89, 1; H. 845. — *τινι*: dativus commodi.

729. *ἀπαλλάσσειν πόδα*: *πόδα* (or *κῶλον*, etc.) is often joined, for greater vividness, to intransitive verbs of motion (*βαίνειν*, *περᾶν*, *ἐπάσσειν*, etc.) as a kind of cognate accusative (as it were, *walk a footstep*); especially common in Eurip.; Alc. 1153, Elec. 94, 1173, Hec. 53, 1071.

735 fig. Join *τούτοις ἀγούσιν ἐκ γαίης ἐμέ*, *at the bidding of these, should they attempt to carry me off out of the country*. *ἐμέ* cannot depend on *μεθεῖο*, which would require a genit. The Mss. have *μεθεῖς*, which, if right, would be for *μεθεῖης*, a solitary instance of its kind; this shorter form (*μεθεῖμεν*, etc.) is common enough in plural, but not in singular. *ἄγω* of forcible abduction.

737 fig. are badly garbled in the Mss., which give *ἐνώμοτος. κἀπικηρυκεύμασι οὐκ ἂν πίθοιο*: this makes the passage merely a repetition of the first part of the sentence. But plainly *λόγοις δέ* stands in opposition to *ὀρκίοισι μὲν*, and the meaning must have been, 'but if you make an agreement in words merely, and not with oaths, then you will be likely to yield to my enemies' demands.' A single hint of the original text, *κἀπικηρυκεύματα*, is furnished by a scholium. I have written the passage, nearly with Nauck, so as to give the needed sense, without feeling at all sure that the words are Euripides'. — *φίλοι*: namely of my enemies.

739. *τάμᾶ*: nearly equivalent to *ἐγώ*. Cp. Andr. 235.

741. *ὁλβιος* = *εὖδειται ἐν λόγοις*. (Porson.)

744 fig. Construe *δεικνύναι ἔχοντα*, *to show that I have*: cp. 548. *ἔχοντα* (instead of *ἔχοντι*) agreeing with the omitted subject of the inf.; cp. on *ἀνολέαντα*, 660. — *τὸ σόν*, *thy interests*. — *ἔξηγοῦ θεούς*, *name (properly dictate, go over beforehand) the gods I am to swear by*. So *ἐξαρχ' ὀρκον*, Iph. T. 743, *administer the oath*.

747. *συντιθεῖς*, *together, comprehensively*; *γῆνος* belongs with *δμνν*. Cp. Hec. 1184; fragm. 658. Verse 748 occurs again, Iph. T. 738.

750. *ἄλλος*, *on the other hand*; Cp. on 296.

753. *ἄ* for *τούτοις ἄ*. It might have been *οἷς*.

754. *πάθους* = *εἶχει παθεῖν*. Opt. of wishing in a question.

758. *τυχαῖός ἃ βούλομαι*: *ἃ* either for *ἐκείνων ἃ*, cp. 753; or like *τασάνδε* 259. — *Ἄγε*us here departs towards the left, as going to foreign parts.

759. *πομπαῖος*: Hermes, adept in cunning and subterfuge, guides persons through difficult enterprises and journeys: Rhes. 216; Soph. Elec. 1395; Phil. 133; Aesch. Eum. 90; Il. ω, 182.

760 fig. The construction is *πράξιας τε (ἐκείνα) ἂν ἐπίνοιαν κατέχων σπεύδεις (αὐτά)*. "Idem est ἐπίνοια κατέχων quod ἐπιθυμία ἔχων." (Elmsley.) Cp. *πόθεν κατέχων*, Phoen. 330.

<sup>2</sup> *δεδόκηται*: the dramatists use the tenses *δοκήσω*, etc., freely, especially in choral passages.

766. εἰς ὁδὸν βεβήκαμεν: that is, we are no longer wandering at random, see our course clearly before us.

768 flg. ἧ, *where*; καθ' ὃ μέρος. Schol. In the very matter, she means, which perplexed her most; see 386 flg. — ἐκάμνομεν: as a ship in distress: cp. Aesch. Theb. 210. — λιμήν: so Andr. 891 Orestes is called a *haven*.

770 flg. πρυμνήτην κάλων: the ancients moored their ships with the stern towards the shore. — μολόντες: see on 314. — ἄστυ, the lower town; πόλις, the acropolis.

773. δέχου, *expect*.

778, 779. These two verses come in very awkwardly after 777. They were plainly written as a substitute for it, not to follow it.

781. λιποῦσ' ἄν, Wecklein after Elmsley; the Mss. λιποῦσα. The participle represents the optative. — The next line is suspected by many; cp. 1060.

785. μὴ φεύγειν depends on the idea of entreaty implied in δῶρα φέροντας. Cp. Suppl. 285, γούνασιν...πίτνω...τάφον ἐξανύσασθαι, and Heracl. 345. This verse (lacking in a good Ms.) is also suspected.

790 flg. ἀπαλλάσσω, *dismiss*. — ὥμωξα: aor. as 223. Medea has now given up her former plan (375) of causing Jason's death. The idea which has all along been dimly present to her mind has now taken definite shape; she will take a more exquisite revenge by killing his children with his new wife, leaving him childless and without prospect of issue, to pass an old age of regret and remorse. — τούντεῦθεν: cp. on τούνθενδε, 1167.

795. φόνον φεύγουσα: the place of the murder was accursed for the murderer; he was obliged to flee and seek expiatory rites (καθάρσια, ἄγνισμα) at the hands of some one at a distance, to be freed from blood-guiltiness (μίασμα, αἷμα).

798. The thought suddenly strikes her that her life must be rendered miserable by such a deed, but she dismisses it with *Never mind; what profits me my life* in any case? ἴτω: a formula of indifference or defiant resolution; cp. 819; Heracl. 455; Orest. 794; cp. also 699.

802. σὺν θεῷ, *with Heaven's help*; cp. 625.

814 flg. οὐκ ἔστιν, *it cannot be*. — πάσχουσιν after σοί: see on 660.

819. οὖν (i. e. οἱ ἐν) μέσῳ, *intervening*; 'all that you can say *meanwhile*.' Cp. Hel. 630; Or. 16; H. F. 94. (Or perhaps *between us*; 'the present discussion'; cp. Hel. 944; Elec. 797.)

820 flg. Addressed to the nurse, who has come out from the house. — πιστά, *confidential matters*. — δεσπόταις, the generalizing plural; she means herself. — γυνή τ' ἑφύς: so as to sympathize with another woman.

824 flg. The first strophe and antistrophe celebrate the praises of Athens. After this apparent digression, the chorus returns to the matter in hand

with the thought, 'How can such a place harbor a criminal such as you will be,' and appeals again to Medea to desist from her design.

825 flg. **θεῶν παῖδες**: Erechtheus (or Erichthonius) was a son of Hephaestus and Gaea. — **ἀπορθήτου**: so that the autochthonic race have always remained in possession. — The **σοφία** is thought of as a natural product of the country. — **λαμπροτάτου**: the clear air of Attica was famous, and was thought to impart vivacity and grace.

834. **Ἀρμονίαν** must be subject to **φυτεῦσαι**, not object, for nine Muses could not bear one daughter. That the Muses were born in Attica, and that Harmonia was their mother, seems to be an invention of Euripides. Hesiod makes them daughters of Zeus and Mnemosyne, born in Pieria near Olympus.

835 flg. The text is in disorder. As it stands, the goddess dips water from the river to infuse its coolness into the breezes she wafts over the land. This is perhaps endurable, but hardly the double accus. with **καταπνεύσαι** (either **χώρας** or **μετρίαις** [**αὔραις**] would be required); moreover, we have (after rejecting **αὔρας**, impossible for metrical reasons) a gap of seven syllables, best placed with Kirchhoff after **χώραν**, — — — — —. The lost words contained some equivalent to **αὔρας**.

844 flg. Loves which are the companions of wisdom are chaste and temperate loves as opposed to sensual passion, including the **ἔρως ψυχῆς** of the philosophers; see Eur. frag. 342. Such are **παντοίας ἀρετᾶς ξυνεργοί**, that is, join with wisdom in producing every virtue.

846 flg. The order: **πῶς οὖν ἡ πόλις ἱερῶν ποταμῶν ἡ χώρα πόμπιμος φίλων** **ἔξει σε...**, etc. — **ἱερῶν ποταμῶν**: gen. of characteristic, H. 568. — **φίλων πόμπιμος**, *safely harboring its friends*, affording them a safe refuge. In this sense **πόμπιμος ὁ δαίμων** (the Dodonian Zeus), Phoen. 984. — **τὰν οὐχ ὀσάν μετ' ἄλλων**, *you the polluted among your fellow-men*.

854. **πάντῃ σ'** Nauck for **πάντες**. The repetition of **σε** is not surprising.

856 flg. **φρενὸς...χειρὶ...καρδίᾳ τε**: a curious enallage; *boldness either of mind or in your hand and heart*. — **τέκνον** (vocative), Nauck. But even thus the text is hardly sound.

861 flg. **ἄδακρυν...φόνου**, *keep tearless the lot of murder*, i. e. 'keep from weeping at the murder you are destined to commit.' The emphasis falls on **ἄδακρυν** = **ὥστε ἄδακρυν εἶναι**. **μοῖρα φόνου** in the same sense, Elec. 1290.

864. **φοινίαν** of the effect; 'stain your hand red.'

866 flg. **καὶ γάρ** as at 314. — **οὐτᾶν**: **οὔτοι ἄν**.

871. **ὑπεργάζομαι**, a rare word, seems here to have the sense of **ὑπουργέω**.

872. **διὰ λόγων ἀφικόμην**: H. 629 d. See on 1081.

876. **ἡμῖν**, of course, with **συμφορώτατα**. She gives him back his own arguments; see 563, 595; and so in the following sentences.

879. τί πάσχω; *what am I thinking of? what possesses me to act as I do?* Cp. 1049.

880. παῖδες: referring to 565. — χθόνα φεύγοντας: their banishment from Iolcus is meant. — ἡμᾶς: Jason and all the family; see 551–554.

884. σωφρονεῖν refers to 549.

887. συμπεραίνειν and the following infinitives are brought in as if ἦν... μετέχειν had preceded, instead of the impersonal ἦ...μετεῖναι. Hence, too, the accus. κηδεύουσαν. — παρεστάναι λέχει: that is, assist at the bridal ceremonies, particularly in conducting the bride into the θάλαμος. — νύμφην, κ. τ. λ.: construe ἦδεσθαί τε κηδεύουσαν (*tending*) νύμφην σέθεν.

889 flg. ἐσμέν οἶόν ἐσμεν: a depreciatory expression. Cp. 1011. Said in reference to 573 flg. — γυναῖκες is predicate nom., 'in short, we are women.' — κακοῖς: generalizing plural; *you were not therefore bound to imitate a bad example* like myself. She compliments him on his forbearance at their previous interview. — By νήπια she means blind, senseless invective.

892. παριέμεσθα, *I speak you fair, I crave your good-will.* παρλεσθαι is used of one who by concessions and fair words *tries to win over* another. — φρονεῖν: infin. of the imperfect; GMT. § 15, 3.

896. διαλλάχθητε τῆς πρ. ἐχθρας, *make peace in renouncing your former enmity.* Since διαλλάσσομαι is strictly *effect a change in my relations*, it can, like any other compound of ἀλλάσσω, take the genitive. — The children, in answer to this summons, appear from the house accompanied by their guardian.

899 flg. οἶμοι...κεκρυμμένων: with admirable art the poet makes Medea's grief overcome her in spite of the part she is acting, so as almost to betray her. Her tears burst forth at sight of the children, and these words escape her almost involuntarily. But, recovering herself, she goes on ἀρ' ὦ τέκνα, κ. τ. λ., so as to lead Jason to understand τὰ κεκρυμμένα of the hidden future, and refer her emotion to natural anxiety for the children's life.

904 flg. χρόνῳ, *at length.* — τήνδε, *as you see.*

906 flg. χλωρόν, *fresh.* Like our *green* (wood, fruit, etc.), it is opposed to dry, withered, without reference to color; so, finally, as applied to wine (Cycl. 67) or water (Phoen. 660) it can mean little else than *sparkling*. —

προβαίη μείζον = προβαίη ὥστε μείζον εἶναι.

908. ἐκεῖνα, *your former conduct.*

909 flg. ὀργὰς ποιέσθαι: periphrasis for ὀργίζεσθαι. — παρεμπολῶντος (αὐτοῦ): genitive absolute, instead of the dative with πόσει, simply for convenience of the verse. H. 791 d. Cp. Soph. Trach. 803.

912. νικῶσαν = κρείσσω. — ἀλλὰ τῷ χρόνῳ, *in time at any rate* (if not at once). For this use of ἀλλά, H. 863 a.



915. πολλήν ἔθηκε προμηθίαν, *has taken measures of great prudence.* — σὺν θεοῖς, as 802.

917. τὰ πρῶτα of persons of the highest rank, Or. 1248 and elsewhere.

920. τέλος, *period.* Just so Alc. 412, γήρως τέλος.

922. αὕτη as vocative; H. 680 a; G. § 148, N. 2.

926. εὖ θέσθαι περὶ τινος is not Greek. The right expression (see Iph. T. 1003) is εὖ θέσθαι τὰ τινος. περί has crept in from above, and before τῶνδε two syllables (— ◡), containing the article, have fallen out.

928. ἐπὶ δακρύοις ἔφυ, *is by nature prone to tears.*

929. τάλαινα, *tenderly; poor woman.* This verse comes in rather abruptly here. The coherence is improved by placing 929–931 between 925 and 926.

931. οἶκτος εἰ, *a compassionate anxiety (ein wehmüthiges Gefühl, Klotz) as to whether.* Cp. 184.

934. ἐπεὶ, κ. τ. λ.: the apodosis is 938 flg. — ἀποστεῖλαι: a mild term.

938 flg. ἀπαίρομεν: the present in a future sense, like εἰμι. H. 699 a; GMT. § 10, 1, Notes 6 and 7. — ὅπως ἂν: H. 741; GMT. § 44, 1, N. 2.

942. ἀλλά as 912; *at any rate.* — πατρός: the genitive with αἰτεῖσθαι (as if δεῖσθαι) is surprising; cp. 1154.

944 flg. πείσειν σφε, *that I shall persuade her* (not *that she will persuade him*), as 946 shows. The following verse then means, ‘if she is soft-hearted and susceptible to your blandishments like others of her sex.’ Medea slyly flatters Jason’s self-complacency; he prides himself on his influence with women. The Mss. continue 945 to Jason; that it belonged to Medea is seen from the scholia.

949. From 786. Elmsley and Kirchhoff reject it there and admit it here.

950. ἀλλά in abrupt transition. — ὅσον τάχος = ὡς τάχος = ὡς τάχιστα.

958. οὔτοι μεμπτά, *not to be despised*, with a double meaning. The reader should not fail to note the covert irony of many of Medea’s phrases, as 952, 957.

962. ἡμᾶς, *me.* Jason’s vanity is wounded at the thought that gifts can prevail more than his own influence.

965. μή μοι σύ: sc. λόγους λέγε. — λόγος: this proverb, as quoted Plat. Rep. 390, runs:—

δῶρα θεοῦς πείθει, δῶρ’ αἰδοίους βασιλῆας·

paraphrased, Ovid, Ars Amat. iii. 653, *munera, crede mihi, capiunt hominesque deosque.*

966 flg. The argument is: ‘such finery beseems a fortunate princess rather than an outcast like myself, and as for its value, I would give even my life to keep my children from banishment.’ — ὁ δαίμων, *Fortuna, the luck.* — κείνα = τὰ ἐκείνης. — νέα τυραννεί, *she is young—a princess.* —

φυγὰς: that is, the remission of the penalty. ἀλλάσσεσθαι is *receive in exchange for, purchase at the price of* (less often *give in exchange*).

974. (τούτων) ὧν ἐρᾷ τυχεῖν: purposely ambiguous. The omitted antecedent depends on εὐάγγελοι. — The children here depart with their guardian-slave and Jason.

978 flg. ἀναδεσμᾶν ἄταν, *the bane of the head-bands = the baneful head-bands*. — τὸν Ἄϊδα κόσμον, *funestum ornatum*. (Pflugk.)

985. νυμφοκομήσει: namely, as bride of Hades; the same idea Iph. Aul. 461, Or. 1109.

989. ὑπερφέυεται: as out of a snare in which the feet are entangled: cp. Aesch. Pers. 100. Three syllables (— — —) are lacking after this word.

992 flg. παισὶν—βιοτᾷ: two datives, of the whole and part, instead of παίδων βιοτᾷ. Cp. Hipp. 1274, ὦ μαινομένα κραδία...ἐφορμάσῃ, H. F. 179; Bacch. 619; Heracl. 63.

995. μοίρας παροίχει, *are at fault respecting your lot, fail to realize what awaits you; literally, have strayed beyond it*. (Not, 'how art thou fallen from thy high estate.')

996. μεταστένομαι, *I pass to bewailing, I bewail in turn* (after having bewailed something else). Schol. μεθίσταμαι δὲ καὶ ἐπὶ τὸ σὸν ἄλγος. So μετακλαίωμαι, Hec. 211. In neither of these places can μετα- mean *too late* or *afterward*. Cp. μετεύχομαι, 600.

1000. σοι: dat. of disadvantage.

1002. The παιδαγωγός, who has accompanied the boys to the palace, here returns with them, and addresses his mistress in breathless eagerness to tell the good tidings. Medea, assured of the success of her plans, and now brought face to face with her dreadful task, stands motionless with horror, and seems not to hear him. — ἀφείνται: cp. the construction of ἀφιέναι here with that at 1155. Creon's consent had not yet been obtained (1156 flg.), but as the bride has promised to intercede, the servant thinks the matter certain.

1004. τάκειθεν, *so far as matters in that quarter are concerned*.

1006 flg. From 923 flg.

1009 flg. μὲν...οὐκ οἶδα, *do I, without knowing it, announce some mischance?* τύχη in a bad sense, as 1203. — δόξα εὐάγγελος is *the credit of bringing good tidings*; see on 557.

1011. ἡγγελας οἱ ἡγγελας: cp. 889.

1013 flg. πολλή μ' ἀνάγκη, sc. δακρυρροεῖν. — ταῦτα γάρ, κ. τ. λ. The idea is, 'my own perverseness, under influence of the gods, has brought this about.' She is thinking of the sending of the fatal gifts, but the old man understands her impending banishment, and answers accordingly.

1015 flg. κάτει, *shalt return from banishment*. — πρὸς τέκνων, *through*

*thy children.* — *κατάξω* in double sense ; *shall restore from banishment, and shall bring down* to Hades.

1018. *θνητὸν ὄντα*, *one who is mortal.*

1020. The attendant enters the house ; the children remain. In the remarkable scene which follows, Medea is swayed now this way, now that, by conflicting emotions.

1021 fig. *πόλις* and *δῶμα* covertly allude to the lower world ; so *οἶκ. αἶ* with significance.

1026 fig. *λέκτρα* : not pleonastic, but = *match, marriage.* — *λαμπάδας* : to carry torches at the bridal festivities was the special duty of the mothers of the contracting parties.

1029. *ἄλλως*, *to no purpose.* — 1030 also in Troad. 755.

1035. *ζηλωτόν* : feminine, or neuter referring to the infin. clause ? Probably the latter.

1039. *ἄλλο σχῆμα βίου* : ambiguous ; the boys understand the splendid life in the palace ; she means the life below.

1046 fig. *τούτων* with emphasis ; ‘by harming *them*,’ not the guilty man himself. — *δις τόσα* : *twice as great* as I inflict on him.

1049. *τί πάσχω* ; as 879. — *γέλωτα* : forgiveness of a wrong the Greeks considered no virtue, but a weakness.

1051. *τῆς ἐμῆς κάκης*, κ. τ. λ. : genit. of exclamation, followed by the infinitive expressing astonishment ; GMT. § 104. *Shame on my cowardice ! To think that I should even have let slip soft words from my heart.*

1054 fig. *θύμασιν* : she speaks of the murder as of a sacrifice, and says, ‘let him whose conscience forbids his presence, stay away.’ The language is that of one warning the unholy away from a sacred act. — *αὐτῷ μελήσα*, sc. *μὴ παρῆναι.* — *χείρα δ’ οὐ διαφθερῶ*, *manum non corrumpam misericordia.* (Pflugk.) The idea is *enfeeble, destroy the force of* ; so *γνώμην διαφθεῖρειν*, *allow my resolution to waver*, Aesch. Ag. 932.

1056 fig. *θυμέ* : Medea addresses her passion as it were another person. She falters again for an instant, but with a sudden revulsion of feeling bursts forth *μὰ τοὺς*, κ. τ. λ. — *ἐκεῖ* : in Athens.

1059 fig. With these words Medea’s frenzy culminates ; hereafter her mood is one of calm and unflinching resolution. — *παρήσω* : she persuades herself, in spite of 1045 and 1058, that it is too late to save the boys by flight. — 1062, 1063, from 1240, 1241.

1064. *πέπρακται* : GMT. § 17, N. 6.

1069. *προσείπεν* : this word means either to greet at meeting (895) or to bid farewell at parting ; here the latter. The children are yet on the stage ; Medea must have detained them at 1056.

1073. *ἐκεῖ—ἐνθάδε* : both with a double meaning.

1074. *προσβολή* : *embrace.* *ἐν δὲ τῷ περιπτύσσεσθαι καὶ καταφιλεῖν ταῦτα λέγει.* Schol. Cp. Suppl. 1139, *προσβολαὶ προσώπων.*

1077. οἷα = οἷα τε. So Kirchhoff. But the text is very uncertain.

1079. βουλευμάτων, *better judgment*. This sentiment Euripid. has repeated several times; as fragm. 838, αἰαί, τόδ' ἤδη θεῖον ἀνθρώποις κακόν, όταν τις εἰδῇ τὰγαθόν, χρῆται δὲ μή. Cp. the well-known words of Ovid's Medea (Met. 7, 20), *video meliora proboque, deteriora sequor*.

1081. The children have again entered the house; Medea remains anxiously looking for further news. Meanwhile the chorus-leader recites the following verses, which are not a stasimon, but only an anapaestic passage separating the parts of the episode, like that at 357, but of unusual length. She prepares the way for the sentiments about children she expresses below (1090) by saying that she, in spite of her sex, has participated in philosophical speculations, since some women, though few, have intellectual culture (μοῦσα). A similar exordium, Alc. 962. — διὰ λεπτ. μύθων ἔμολον, *have engaged in subtler arguments*; cp. 872.

1087 flg. παῦρον γένος, *a small class*: supply ἐστίν. μίαν was ingeniously supplied by Elmsley, after Heracl. 327, παύρων μετ' ἄλλων· ἓνα γὰρ ἐν πολλοῖς ἴσως εὖροις ἂν ὅστις, κ. τ. λ. — τὸ γυναικῶν is added somewhat freely at the end; *of womankind namely*, referring to γένος.

1091. ἀπειροί, namely παιδοποιῖτας, as the next clause shows. A like sentiment, Alc. 880; the reverse, Ion 488.

1094 flg. δι' ἀπειροσύνην εἶτε, *through inexperience as to whether*. — οὐχὶ τυχόντες, *inasmuch as they have none* (children).

1101 flg. πρῶτον μὲν—τε: see on 126. — ὅπως θρέψωσι: GMT. § 45 and Note 8. — ὁπόθεν λείψουσι is an indirect question partaking of the nature of an object clause after an expression of care or anxiety; cp. GMT. § 45 Remark, and foot-note.

1103. ἐκ, *after*.

1105. τὸ π. λοίσθιον κακόν, *the crowning evil of all*.

1107. καὶ δὴ as 386.

1109. εἰ δὲ κυρῆσαι δαίμων οὔτος, *si tamen ea fortuna eveniat*. (Elmsley.)

1112 flg. λύει = λυσιτελεῖ, as 566. — τήνδε λύπην is the grief of losing children by death, and the sense is: 'Why, for the sake of having children, should men incur such afflictions at the hands of the gods?'

1117. τάκειθεν for τὰ ἐκεῖ, from the influence of καραδοκῶ.

1123. λιποῦσα: that is, 'not leaving unused,' taking the first means of conveyance that offers. ναῖαν ἀπήνην: a circumlocution for *ship*, like ναῖον ὄχημα, Iph. T. 410.

1129. μὲν as in 676. — φρονεῖς ὀρθά; *are you in your right mind?*

1133. μὴ σπέρχου, *don't be excited*. — φίλος: nomin. for vocative.

1140. ἐσπείσθαι = σπονδαῖς διαλελυκέναι.

1141. ὁ μὲν τις: H. 525 a, fine print. τις shows that ὁ μὲν does not refer to any particular person.

1143. **στέγας γυναικῶν** (accus. of place whither), the *γυναικωνίτις* or women's apartment. It was unusual for a man to enter this, but the joy of the moment excused this infraction.

1144. **θαυμάζομεν**, *look up to*. (Elmsley.)

1150. **ὀργὰς ἀφῆρα**: 456 and note.

1151 flg. **οὐ μὴ δυσμενὴς ἔσει...παύσει δὲ...καὶ στρέψας**, κ. τ. λ., *be not wrathful...but cease...and turn*, etc. GMT. § 89, 2 and Note 1, where similar examples. The futures express a command, and are probably interrogative, *οὐ* going with all of them, *μὴ* only with *ἔσει*. Otherwise Goodwin, l. c. Rem. 1.

1153. **οὕσπερ ἄν**, sc. *νομίζη*.

1154 flg. **παραιτήσῃ**: *παραιτεῖσθαι πατρός* is less anomalous than *αἰτεῖσθαι πατρός*, 942, but both are singular. — **ἐμήν χάριν** adverbial, *for my sake*.

1158 flg. **ἀπείναι**: the boys returning home with their attendant, Jason going elsewhere. — **ἡμπέσχετο**: aor. (H. 438, 5); the form *ἡμπέσχετο*, with double augment, is very doubtful.

1162. **εἰκώ** (gen. *εἰκοῦς*, Hel. 77), collateral form of *εἰκὼν*.

1165 flg. **πολλὰ πολλάκις**, *often and again*. — **τένοντ' ἐς ὀρθόν**: *τένων* is certainly the *foot* (properly the *sinew* of the heel), as Bacch. 938, and *ὀρθός* seems to mean *raised on tiptoe*. She stands on tiptoe and looks over her shoulder to survey the fall of the robe.

1167. **τοῦνθένδε**, *deinde*. Strictly an appositive; *as the next thing in order*.

1169 flg. **φθάνει** with a participle as usual, but followed by **μὴ πεσεῖν** (instead of the more regular *πρὶν πεσεῖν*), since it implies *prevention*, a negative idea. GMT. § 95, 2 (c); H. 838. *Scarcely does she throw herself...in time to avoid falling*, etc.

1172. **Πανὸς ὀργάς**. Such a sudden and unaccountable feeling of terror as sometimes comes over one in deep forests and lonely mountain glades the Greeks believed to be sent by Pan, and thence any apparently causeless fright or *panic* (*πανικὸν δαῖμα*), even in battle, as well as sudden madness and epileptic fits, were thought to come from him. A like crazing influence over the mind was ascribed to other deities, Dionysus, Hecate, Cybele. In such cases it was proper that the divine presence be recognized by an *ὀλολυγή* or *prayerful ejaculation*, a peculiar cry of the women, expressive of religious fervor and joy, and used on divers sacred occasions.

1173 flg. **πρὶν γε**, *till at length*. — **ὀμμάτων ἀπὸ κόρας στρέφουσιν**: i. e. *ἀποστρέφουσιν κόρας ὀμμάτων*. Tmesis.

1176. **ἀντίμολπον**, *in a different strain from*, governs *ὀλολυγῆς*. Cp. Alc. 922, *ὑμεναίων γόος ἀντίπαλος*.

1181 fig. ἤδη...ἤπτετο shows how long it was that the princess lay in her swoon. *Already a swift walker, at a brisk pace* (ἀνέλκων κῶλον), *would have been reaching the goal of a course six plethra long* (that is. would have walked a stadium), *when she*, etc. The transcribers strangely misunderstood and garbled this passage. The reading in the text is Porson's, after corrections of Reiske and Musgrave. But even this is hardly sound; ἀνέλκων, in this connection, for ἀνακουφίζων, ἐξαίρων, is odd, and as all the Mss. have the acc. ἐκπλεθρον agreeing with κῶλον, it seems likely that κῶλον (as Aesch. Agam. 344) meant one side of a double race-course, and that ἀνέλκων has replaced some other participle, with the idea of *passing over*; perhaps ἀνέρπων or ἀνελθών (Weil ἀνειλῶν).

1183. ἐξ as in the expressions ἐξ εἰρήνης πολεμεῖν, ἐκ δακρύων γελαῖν, etc. Transl. *from this condition of*, or *after remaining with*. — ἀναύδου with δμματος by a kind of zeugma. Elmsl. compares τυφλήν χεῖρα, Ph. 1699, τυφλῇ ποδί, Hec. 1050.

1193. By σύνδεσμα are meant *clasps* of some sort (cp. Bacch. 697), by which the head-dress was fastened on, and 'the gold held the clasps' means simply that the golden clasps would not give way.

1196. κάρτα δυσμαθὴς ἰδεῖν, *very hard to recognize at sight*.

1197. δῆλος: see on 61. — κατάστασις, *expression*, strictly *settled condition*.

1200. πεύκινον δάκρυ· πίσσα. Hesych.

1204. τύχην...διδάσκαλον: i. e. we learned caution from the recent calamity.

1209. γέροντα is used adjectively. γέρων τύμβος, of an old man ripe for the grave, occurs again Heracl. 166.

1216. ἡ δ' ἀντελάζυτο: of course only in appearance, by the adhesion of the robes; it does not imply, as the Schol. thought, that she was still alive. — πρὸς βίαν ἄγοι, *struggled violently*.

1218. ἀπέστη, *desisted*.

1221. ποθεινὴ δακρύοισι: a misfortune *welcome to tears* is boldly put for one which calls for, or excites a desire for tears. (The meaning *to be mourned for*, which Liddell and Scott, 6th ed., assign to ποθεινός here, it cannot possibly have.)

1222. The sense: 'your situation I will not speak of.'

1224 fig. The messenger closes with some rather gloomy reflections: there is, he thinks, no such thing as true happiness among men; philosophers, who pretend to have found the key to εὐδαιμονία, are guilty of most serious deceit. — οὐ νῦν πρῶτον: cp. 293, 446.

1227. ζημίαν: they deserve punishment, he means, for misguiding the multitude. Many write μωρίαν on conjecture.

1228 fig. He distinguishes between εὐδαιμονία, complete happiness un-

alloyed with misery, and εὐτυχία, mere good luck for the time being. — The messenger now departs.

1236 flg. τοῦργον: subject of δέδοκται and explained by the inf. ἀφορμ. and ἐκδοῦναι as appositives. — κτανούσῃ—ἀγούσαν: the nearer conforms itself to μοι, the latter falls back into the accus.

1240. πάντες, in any case. Even if she spared them, they would be killed as instrumental in causing the death of the princess and Creon.

1243. μὴ πράσσαν: μὴ οὐ (which Elmsley restored) would be in place here, but is not necessary; see GMT. § 95, 2, Note 2, last part.

1245. βαλβίδα: the deed is to be the beginning of a long career of wretchedness, which she likens to a race. — λυπηράν goes in thought rather with βίου; see note on καθάραν, 660.

1250. τε—δέ: H. 855 b. — Medea enters the house.

1251 flg. The text of this ode is corrupt in several places, though its tenor is plain. The chorus calls, as a last resort, on the gods to prevent the impending crime; on the Sun, Medea's and the children's ancestor, and the Earth, who will be polluted by the blood; deplores then the murderous frenzy which can bring nothing but evil in its train.

1252 flg. Ἄλιος has not often ἄ, but a clear case seems to be Soph. Trach. 835. — κατῖδετ' ἴδετε: as ὑπάκουσον ἀκουσον, Alc. 400, and several other examples. The preposition belongs equally to both verbs. 'Look on her before she does the deed' implies, of course, 'prevent her.'

1255 flg. The Mss. σᾶς γὰρ ἀπὸ against metre; ἀπὸ has crowded out some trochaic word beginning with a consonant. — ἐβλαστέν: who? Medea, as it stands. But it is the boys' divine origin that the chorus is thinking of, not Medea's, who is referred to in the next line as ἄνδρες. So, too, the Scholiast; ἐβλαστέν· ἀντὶ τοῦ ἐβλάστησαν, ἐφυσαν. ἐπεὶ ἡ Μήδεια μὲν ἐκγονος Ἡλίου, οὗτοι δὲ ἐκ Μηδείας. It is likely that the lacuna contained a word designating the children. Wecklein writes σπέρμα; it might be a neut. plural. — θεῶν, κ. τ. λ., there is fear that a god's blood (in the boys' veins) be shed by human hands. The Mss. αἵματι, giving neither sense nor metre; -τι is a trace of some lost word; Wecklein πέδοι. Perhaps αἷμ' ἐπὶ γᾶ.

1259 flg. ἔξελ' οἴκων, κ. τ. λ., expel from the house the demon of vengeance, bloodthirsty, driven hither and thither by the Furies. Not Medea herself, but rather her guiding genius is meant. I have written nearly with Weil; the Ms. reading violates the metre, and affords no dependence for the last two words. — ἀλάστορον: from nom. ἀλάστορος, another form for ἀλάστωρ.

1261. μόχθος τέκνων, the toil expended on the children.

1267. ἀμείβεται as it stands must be rendered comes in turn, ensues. But the metre betrays a gap of two short syllables.

1268 fig. Obscure and corrupt. The most that can be made of it is : *grievous to mortals is the stain of kindred blood* (ὁμογενῇ μιάσῃ.) *abroad in the land, recoiling from the divine hand* (θεόθεν πίτνοντα) *as corresponding woes* (συνψδὰ ἄχῃ) *upon the house of the murderers* (αὐτοφόνταις ἐπὶ δόμοις). *συνψδά*, sc. τοῖς μιάσμασιν ; *commensurate* with the guilt.

1271. The voices of the boys are heard behind the scene. The two verses οἶμοι...ὀλλύμεσθα γάρ come in the Mss. before 1273. But the antistrophe shows that two trimeters are wanting after 1274, and it seems best (as Seidler first proposed) to insert these, and supply their place above with some exclamation (as αἰαῖ) standing *extra metrum*. The falling out of this word occasioned the transposition.

1275 fig. ἀρήξαι : ἀρήγω construed like ἀμύνω, as Tro. 776, παιδί τ' οὐ δυνάμεθ' ἄν θάνατον ἀρήξαι, and Heracl. 840. — δοκεῖ μοι, *I have a mind*. But, with a timidity characteristic of the chorus, they do not venture after all. So Aesch. Ag. 1346 the chorus, in a similar situation, talk of coming to the rescue, but do not do it. Cp. Hipp. 782.

1278. ἀρκύων ξίφους : a like figure, H. F. 729, βρόχοισι δ' ἀρκύων...ξίφη-φόροις.

1279. ἦσθα : see on ἦν, 703.

1281. τέκνων ἄροτον (*segetem liberorum*, Pflugk) periphrasis for τέκνα. — αὐτόχειρι μοίρα, *a death inflicted by thine own hands*, like αὐτόχειρι σφαγῇ, Orest. 947.

1284. Ino, daughter of Cadmus, wife of Athamas, had incurred Hera's anger by caring for the infant Dionysus, whence she and her husband were visited with madness. The commoner form of the story is that Athamas slew one of their children, Learchus, and would have slain the other, Melicertes, but that Ino fled from him and leaped into the sea with the infant in her arms. But Euripides has here followed another account, not elsewhere found, which makes Ino kill both children in her frenzy, and then throw herself into the sea in despair. The gods took pity on Ino and she became a sea-goddess under the name of Leucothea ; Odyss. ε, 333.

1286. φόνω is dat. of cause.

1288. ἀκτής : the Molurian rock near Megara. — ὑπερτείνασα πόδα : namely in the act of stepping off into the sea.

1290. δεινόν : that is, that can be called terrible in comparison with these crimes.

1293. Jason comes in breathless haste to save his children from the vengeance of the Corinthians.

1296 fig. νιν—σφε : the repetition of the pronoun after so short an interval is singular. But as δέι can take an accus. even without an infinitive (as δέι με τούτου), it is possible that νιν was felt to belong so closely to δέι as to justify another subject for the infinitive, somewhat as in Paley's ren-



dering, "it is needful for her that she..." — πτηνόν, on wings. — εἰ μὴ δώσει, if she means to escape paying; GMT. § 49, 1, Note 3.

1300. αὐτή: "plane hic otiosum et supervacaneum vocabulum." Hermann. Not so; the sense is, 'does she who killed others expect to escape death herself?'

1301. ἀλλὰ—γάρ: not as 252, 1085, but ἀλλά introduces ἐρξουσι below; cp. 1067, 1344.

1302 flg. (οὗτοι) οὕς (κακῶς) ἔδρασαν ἐρξουσιν κακῶς. — ἐκσῶσαι: GMT. § 97, Note 1, latter part.

1304 flg. μοι: dat. incommodi of the person remotely interested, as in 283. With δράσωσι understand αὐτούς. — οἱ προσήκοντες γένει: sc. Κρέοντι. — μητρῶν, committed by their mother. — ἐκπράσσοντες φόνον = ἐκπρ. φόνου δίκην.

1309. παῖδες—σέθεν together. σέθεν is similarly placed, Suppl. 133; Phoen. 1213, 1588.

1310. τί λέξεις; (GMT. § 25, 1, Note 6, last part), what do you mean? The future as if the speaker did not comprehend the whole calamity and expected some further account.

1311. ὡς οὐκέτ' ὄντων: on the construction GMT. § 113, Note 10 (b). — φρόντιζε, consider solemnly, take it to heart.

1314 flg. Addressed to the slaves within, who alone can undo the fastenings. Cp. Or. 1561; H. F. 332; Hipp. 808; I. T. 1304 (τοῖς ἐνδον λέγω). — διπλοῦν κακόν: the corpses and the murderess. — In τὴν δὲ τίσσωμαι there is an abrupt change of construction; we should expect τὴν δὲ κτείναν, ἣν τίσσωμαι φόνῳ.

1317. While Jason is trying to force the door, Medea suddenly appears aloft in a chariot drawn by dragons (see Hypothesis), bearing the bodies of the boys. — ἀναμοχλεύεις: so Heracles (H. F. 999) σκάπτει, μοχλεύει θύρετρα, not, however, on the stage. That Jason actually uses a lever is hardly to be thought; probably the word is applied metaphorically to his efforts to lift the door off its hinges. But the phrase excited the ridicule of Aristophanes, Clouds 1397.

1322. ἔρυμα χερός, protection against the hand.

1323. μέγιστον ἐχθίστη: strengthened superlative; cp. πλείστον ἡδίστην, Alc. 790.

1329. φρονῶν: participle of the imperfect; GMT. § 16, 2.

1333. τῶν σῶν...θεοί, an avenging demon which haunted thy family the gods have hurled upon me. This refers back to νῦν φρονῶ, 1329. The sense of the whole is, 'Now I realize what I did not realize before; an ancestral curse which rested on thy family has passed over upon me.' The idea of the ἀλάστωρ, so prominent in Greek tragedy, had its roots in the popular belief. It is a demon of vengeance, which ceaselessly haunts its victims,

and passes from generation to generation perpetuating crime and misery. So here the *ἀλάστωρ* spoken of (the evil genius which actuates Medea) is the personification of an ancient curse clinging to Medea's family; it had wreaked itself on that family in the murder of Apsyrtus, and now on Jason in the murder of his children. (The reading *τῶν σῶν ἀλ.* is due to Wecklein, who, however, interprets it wrongly 'the demon that *avenged* thy kindred.' But *ἀλάστωρ τῶς* is, in good writers, never the demon which *avenges* one, but that which *haunts* one.)

1334. *παρέστιον* heightens the guilt. He had fled to the *ἑστία* as a suppliant. Eurip. adopts the account, also followed by Sophocles in the *Κολχίδες*, that Apsyrtus was murdered at home. The common story is that he accompanied Medea and Jason in their flight, and was slain on the way.

1337. *ἀνδρὶ τῷδε*, (*huic homini*) *me*.

1340. *ῶν*: the plural idea, *Ἑλληνίδων γυναικῶν*, is involved in the preceding.

1342. *Τυρσηνίδος*: either *Italian* (the Etruscans being to Eurip. the representative people of Italy), or because she lived at the entrance to the Tuscan sea. Cp. 1359.

1344. *ἀλλά* introduces *ἔρρε*. See on 1301.

1347. *πάρα* = *πάρεστι*; cp. 443.

1348 flg. Observe *οὔτε* — *οὐ* correlated. — *προσειπεῖν*: see on 1069.

1351. *ἔξετανα*: the aor. refers to the present moment, the idea being, *I should undertake to make a long speech* (which, however, I do not), whereas *ἔξετεινον* would mean rather, *I should now be making a long speech*. GMT. § 49, 2, Note 5; H. 746 a, last part. Cp. v. 425.

1357. *ἄτιμον*: *ἀτιμώρητον* (Schol.), *unavenged*, a meaning which the word has Hipp. 1417, Aesch. Ag. 1279. It takes the emphasis; 'Creon was not going to banish me *without my having my revenge*.' *ἄτιμος* gets this meaning naturally; it is, *without satisfaction, deprived of one's due*, since vengeance was a *τιμή* or *natural right*.

1359 flg. *ῥέκησεν*, *has fixed her habitation in*, so *dwells in*. — *ὡς χρή*, '*comme il faut*,' *finely*.

1362. *λύα* (566) *ἄλγος*, *grief profits me*; i. e. *I can afford to grieve*.

1364. *νόσφ*, *morbid passion*.

1366. *σοί*: in sense with *ὑβρις* as well as *γάμοι*.

1367. *γε* belongs to *λέχους*: an enclitic (or *μέν*, *δέ*) often separates *γε* from its word.

1371. *εἰσὶν* answers *οὐκέτ' εἰσὶ* of the previous verse. 'They *live* as ruthless avengers to haunt thee.' *μιάστωρ* (*polluter*) is either (1) a guilt-stained wretch whose contact defiles others, or (2) the ghost of a murdered man haunting the murderer, and producing *μιασμα*, blood-guiltiness.

Here and Aesch. Eum. 177 it has the latter sense. Hence σφ̄ κάρq, because their blood is upon Medea's head.

1374. στέγα, *abhor me* if you will; referring to the word ἀπόπτυστον above. — βᾶξιν here means *conversation, society*.

1375. ῥᾶδιοι δ' ἀπαλλαγαί. Medea wishes him to leave her (this is implied in 1374), that she may accomplish undisturbed the burial of her children before setting out for Athens. He says, *riddance is easy*, i. e. to be had on easy terms. She scornfully asks 'how?' affecting to be anxious to comply. (Yet we fail to see how Jason's presence is any hindrance to Medea, for she is mistress of the situation, and can proceed in her dragon-car at any moment to bury the bodies. But to take ἀπαλλαγαί, with Paley, to mean *divorce* does not help the matter.)

1379. The most famous Corinthian temple of Hera ἀκραία (goddess of the heights) was at the end of the Heraean promontory in the Corinthian gulf, distant from the city several miles in a straight line across the bay. Elmsley and most others have supposed that temple to be meant here. But the local tradition represented the children as buried in the city itself; at least their monument (μνημα) stood there, near the street leading toward Sicyon. And we know that in the same quarter, on a spur of the Acrocorinthus, there was a temple of Hera βουναία. Now as βουναία and ἀκραία seem to be equivalent terms, it is altogether probable that this was the temple in which the rites relating to Medea were celebrated, and in the τέμενος of which the children's graves were. This view is confirmed by the Schol. on this passage, who says that the temple here mentioned was situated on the Acrocorinthus. See E. Curtius, Peloponnesus, Vol. II. p. 533.

1380. ὥς μή τις, κ. τ. λ. The sacredness of the place would insure this.

1382. ἑορτήν καὶ τέλη: see Introduction, § 18.

1386. Medea here appears endowed with the prophetic gift, to which she has a right as a sorceress and the grand-daughter of a god. As to Jason's death, see the first Hypothesis. The Schol. knows another account, according to which Jason had hung up the ship's gunwale in the temple of Hera, and this fell down and crushed him. See also Neophron, frag. 3, Appendix.

1389 flg. ἀλλὰ σέ (not ἀλλά σε), with emphasis on the pronoun. — Ἐρινὺς τέκνων: the Erinys of a particular person is often spoken of as avenging his death. — φονία, i. e. requiting murder with murder.

1396. οὕτω θρηνεῖς: the sense is, 'You do not yet know what grief is. Wait till you are old.' (Paley.) He will then feel what it is to be childless. — καὶ γῆρας, age *in addition* to your present afflictions.

1400. προσπύξασθαι (here = *kiss*, cp. Phoen. 1671), infin. of purpose added epexegetically.

1401. *προσαυδῆς*: see on 1069. This verb is regularly used of farewell words spoken to the dead, — a Greek custom. — *ἀσπάζει*: of a parting salutation, as *Tro.* 1276.

1408. *ὅπόσον* refers to the whole of the next line. 'I do at least what I can, I lament...'

1413. *φύσας*: the participle contains the leading idea, as often. *Would that I had never begotten them, to see them*, etc. — *ὄφελον*: augmentless also *Aesch. Pers.* 915.

1416 flg. These seem to have been stock verses of Euripides, for they conclude not only this play, but also the *Alcestis*, *Andromache*, *Bacchae*, and *Helena*. On this Hermann (*Bacch.* 1388) says: "Qui factum sit ut Euripides quinque fabulas iisdem versibus finierit, non memini me a quoquam interpretum indicatum legisse. Scilicet, ut fit in theatris, quum actorum partes ad finem deductae essent, tantus erat surgentium atque abeuntium strepitus, ut quae chorus in exitu fabulae recitare solebat, vix exaudiri possent. Eo factum, ut illis chori versibus parum curae impenderetur." Others have thought that such endings were added by the actors. Wecklein points out that 1417 flg. do not apply to the *Medea*.

## CHIEF DEVIATIONS

### FROM THE BEST MANUSCRIPTS.

THE following list includes only cases in which the reading adopted in the text is found in *no* manuscript of the 1st class (see Intr. § 8). Before the colon stands the adopted reading, after it the reading of the 1st class Mss., minor variants neglected. Where the former is derived from Mss. of the 2d class it is marked 2; where from the scholia, S; otherwise it stands by conjecture only. Smaller corrections are omitted.

107 ἀνάξει 2 : ἀνάψει. — 140 τὸν : ὁ. — 149 ἀχάν : λαχάν. — 150 ἀπλάτου : ἀπλάστου. — 159 δυρομένα : ὀδυρομένα. — 182 σπεύσασα : σπεύσαι. — 228 γιγνώσκεις : γιγνώσκειν. — 234 τοῦτ' ἔτ' : τοῦτ' (τοῦδ' ἔτ' 2). — 253 πόλις θ' ἦδ' 2 : πόλις ἦδ' and γὰρ πόλις ἦδ'. — 259 τοσόνδε δ' ἔκ : τοσοῦτον δέ. — 261 δίκην : δίκη. — 262 ἦ τ' : ἦν τ'. — 273 σαυτῇ : αὐτῇ. — 317 βουλεύης : βουλεύσης. — 323 μενεῖς 2 : μένης. — 415 στρέψουσι : στρέφουσι. — 445 ἐπανεστά : ἐπέστη and ἀνέστη. — 491 συγγνώστ' ἂν 2 : συγγνωστὸν. — 494 θέσμ' : θέσμι'. — 550 ἥσυχος 2 : ἡσύχως. — 594 βασιλέων : βασιλέως. — 599 κνίλοι 2 : κνίζει. — 643 δώματα : δῶμα. — 647 οἰκτρότατον : οἰκτροτάτων. — 654 μῦθον : μύθων. — 656 ᾤκτισεν : ᾤκτειρε. — 703 συγγνώστ' ἄγαν ἄρ' : συγγνωστὰ γὰρ. — 721 ὦν : ὦν μ'. — 736 μεθεῖ' : μεθῆς (μεθεῖς). — 737 ἀνώμοτος : ἐνώμοτος. — 738 κάπικηρυκεύματα S : κάπικηρυκεύμασι. — 739 τάχ' ἂν πίθοι σε : οὐκ ἂν πίθοιο. — 752 ἡλίου θ' ἄγνὸν σέβας marginal gloss : λαμπρόν θ' ἡλίου φάος. — 781 λιποῦσ' ἂν : λιποῦσα. — 817 λέξης : λέξεις. — 835 ῥοάς : ῥοαῖς. — 847 ἡ πόλις ἡ φίλων : ἡ φίλων ἡ πόλις. — 852 αἶρει : αἶρῃ. — 854 πάντῃ σ' : πάντες. — 855 τέκνα φονεύσης : τέκνα μὴ φονεύσης. — 857 τέκνον : τέκνων. — 860 δμματα 2 : δμμα. — 864 χέρα φοινίαν : χεῖρα φονίαν. — 867 οὐτᾶν : οὐκ ἂν. — 905 τέρειναν : τερείνην. — 926 τῶνδε θήσομαι πέρι : τῶνδ' ἐγὼ θήσομαι πέρι, τῶνδε νῦν θήσω πέρι. — 945 to Med. S : Mss. to Jas. — 978 ἀναδεσμᾶν : ἀναδέσμων. — 983 πέπλον : πέπλων. — 984 χρυσότευκτόν τε : χρυσεότευκτον. — 992 δλεθρον βιοτᾶ S : δλέθριον βιοτὰν. — 1005 ἔα to Paed. : Mss. to Med. — 1012 δῆ : δέ. — 1015 κάτει : κρατεῖς. — 1054 θύμασιν S and 2 : δώμασιν. — 1077 οἶα πρὸς : οἶα τε πρὸς. — 1087 παῦρον δὲ γένος μίαν : παῦρον δὲ δῆ (δέ τι 2) γένος. — 1089 οὐκ : κούκ. — 1099 ἐσορῶ 2 : ὀρῶ. — 1121 παρανόμως εἰργασμένη 2 : παρανόμως τ' εἰργασμένον. — 1130 ἐστίαν 2 : οἰκίαν. — 1139 οἰκων S : ὤτων. — 1181 ἐκπλέθρου : ἐκπλεθρον. — 1182 ἂν ἤπτετο :

*ἀνθήπτετο.* — 1189 *λευκὴν* : *λεπτὴν*. — 1205 *προσπίτνει* 2 : *προσπίπτει*. —  
 1221 *δακρύοισι* S and 2 : *δακρύουσι*. — 1252 *φονίαν* : *φονίαν*. — 1255 *γὰρ...*  
*χρ.* : *γὰρ ἀπὸ χρ.* — 1256 *αἷμα* S : *αἷματι*. — 1259 *φονῶντ' ἀλαίοντ' Ἑρινύων*  
*ὑπ' ἀλάστορον* : *φονίαν τάλαιαν τ' Ἑρινὺν ὑπ' ἀλαστόρων*. — 1262 *μάταν ἄρα* :  
*ἄρα μάταν*. — 1280 *δν* : *ὦν*. — 1283 *χέρα* : *χεῖρα*. — 1295 *τοῖσδ' ἔτ'* : *τοῖσδέ γ'.*  
 — 1333 *τῶν σῶν* : *τὸν σόν*. — 1356 *οὐδ'—οὐδ'* : *οὐθ'—οὐθ'*. — 1357 *ἄτιμον* S :  
*ἀνατεί*. — 1371 *ὦμοι* : *ὦμοι* and *οἷμοι*. — 1374 *στύγει* : *στυγεῖ*. — 1398 *ἔκανες* :  
*ἔκτανες*. — 1409 *κάπιθεάζω* : *κάπιθοάζω*. — 1413 *ὄφελον* : *ὠφελον*.

## METRES OF THE LYRICAL PARTS.

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FIVE kinds are used in this play.

1. **Dactylo-epitritic** (or *Doric*) strophes are composed of the following elements (*series* or *cola*):


(1) ' — — — — — Dactylic tripody, with spondee in 3d place.



(2) ' — — — — — Second epitrite (trochee and spondee).

Either of these may be catalectic; so arise:

(3) ' — — — — —

(4) ' — — — — —



These elements are combined in various ways, mostly two or three uniting to form a verse. Forms (1) and (2) may shorten the last syllable in caesura, even in the middle of a verse. An anacrusis may be prefixed to any verse. Sometimes, especially at the end of the strophe, other dactylic and trochaic series are employed. The movement is in common ( $\frac{2}{4}$ ) time; the trochee being .

2. **Logaoedic** strophes; see Hadl. 916. They unite dactyls and trochees in the same series (colon). Pure trochaic (or iambic) series may be used with the logaoedic. They move in triple ( $\frac{3}{8}$ ) time; the dactyls being *cyclic* () and the spondees *irrational* (.

3. **Dactylo-trochaic** strophes consist of dactyls and trochees (or iambs) in separate series. A dactylic and a trochaic series may, however, unite to form one verse (Hadl. 909 n. o. p.). A spondee standing for the last dactyl of a series may shorten its final syllable even in the middle of a verse. The movement is in triple time, with cyclic dactyls and irrational spondees.

4. **Dactylic verse**; H. 908. Common ( $\frac{2}{4}$ ) time.

5. **Dochmii**; see H. 928. Their rhythm is broken,  $\frac{4}{8}$  alternating with  $\frac{3}{8}$ ;  etc.

In the following schemes the foot-ictus is marked with ., the first ictus of each series (colon) with '. The sign — denotes a *triseme* long syllable () , — a *tetraseme* (.

## PARODOS.

**PROŔDE (131 – 138).**

**Dactylic, with anapaestic introduction.**

— — — — —

— 1 — •

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \frac{1}{\text{---}} \text{---} \dot{\text{---}} \text{---} \dot{\text{---}} \text{---} \dot{\text{---}} \text{---} \\ \frac{1}{\text{---}} \text{---} \dot{\text{---}} \text{---} \dot{\text{---}} \text{---} \dot{\text{---}} \text{---} \\ \frac{1}{\text{---}} \text{---} \dot{\text{---}} \text{---} \dot{\text{---}} \text{---} \dot{\text{---}} \text{---} \\ \frac{1}{\text{---}} \text{---} \dot{\text{---}} \text{---} \dot{\text{---}} \text{---} \dot{\text{---}} \text{---} \end{array} \right\}$$

**These four *cola* form one long verse or *hypermeter*.**

٠ ١ ٢ ٣ ٤ ٥

**Iambic close ; sync. tetrap. hypercat.**

**STROPHE AND ANTISTROPHE (148-159 = 173-184).**

**Logaoedic, with anapaestic introduction.**

— ١ —

\_\_\_\_\_ 1 \_\_\_\_\_ • \_\_\_\_\_ • \_\_\_\_\_ •

1

$$\left. \begin{array}{ccccccc} - & \overset{!}{\cup} & \cup & \dot{\cup} & \cup & \text{E} & \dot{\cup} \\ - & \overset{!}{\cup} & \cup & \dot{\cup} & \cup & \text{E} & \dot{\cup} \\ - & \overset{!}{\cup} & \cup & \dot{\cup} & \cup & \text{E} & \dot{\cup} \end{array} \right\}$$

**Brachycat. tetrapodies (Glyconics) with anacruses. Only seemingly tripodies.**

二 一 二 三 四

**Brachycat. tripod with anacr.**

$\frac{1}{2}$     $\frac{1}{3}$     $\frac{1}{4}$

**Troch.**

— — — — —

— ۱ —

$$-\left\{ \begin{array}{cc} \overset{!}{-} & \overset{\cdot}{-} \\ - & - \end{array} \right\} \vdash \overset{\cdot}{-}$$

On the responsion cp. H. 921 a.

! ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

**Syncopated trochaic tetrap.**

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

On the next to the last syll. see H. 916 c.







# 132 METRES OF THE LYRICAL PARTS.

2D STROPHE AND ANTISTROPHE (846-855 = 856-865).

Logaoedic.

- / ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

/ ~ ~ ~ ~

/ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

- / ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

- / ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

- / ~ ~ ~ ~

- / ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

- / ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

- / ~ ~ ~ ~

/ ~ ~ ~ ~

Tripodies and brachycat. tetrapodies, ending with a dipody (Adonic).

## FOURTH STASIMON.

1ST STROPHE AND ANTISTROPHE (976-982 = 983-989).

Dactylo-epitritic.

- / ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ - / ~ ~ ~

/ ~ ~ ~ ~ / ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

/ ~ ~ ~ ~ / ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

/ ~ ~ ~ ~ / ~ ~ ~ ~

/ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ - / ~ ~ ~ ~

/ ~ ~ ~ ~ / ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Spondee for dact. in 1st place; an unusual license.

Trochaic tripody as close.

2D STROPHE AND ANTISTROPHE (990-995 = 996-1001).

Dactylo-trochaic.

- / ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ / ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

/ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

- / ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ / ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

- / ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Dact. trip. (w. anacr.) + troch. tetrap. brachycat.

Dact. tetrap. double anacr. + dact. trip. cat. [cat. Iamb. hexap. syncop. and

## FIFTH STASIMON.

**1ST STROPHE AND ANTISTROPHE (1251-1260 = 1261-1270).**

**Dochmü.**

$\cup \quad \dot{\cup} \quad - \quad \cup \quad \dot{\cup} \quad - \quad \cup \quad \dot{\cup}$ 
Bacchic tripod catal. Hadl. 929 b.



























































































































$\cup \cap - \cup \div \cup \frac{1}{-} - \cup \div$  " "

— — — — — “ “

— ' — ∪ ∙ ∪ ∙ ∪ ∙      Dochmius and iamb. dipody.


**Two dochmii.**

 Doehmius.

= á — — ÷ — á — — ÷ } Six dochmii; belong together as one  
 ( á — — ÷ — ' — — ÷ } long verse.  
 ( á — — ÷ = á — — ÷ } 'Ερινύων with syniz.

## 2D STROPHE AND ANTISTROPHE (1271-1281 = 1282-1292).

**Dochmii, with iambic trimeters.**

—  $\overset{!}{\rule{0.5cm}{0.4pt}}$  —  $\overset{\cdot}{\rule{0.5cm}{0.4pt}}$  —  $\overset{!}{\rule{0.5cm}{0.4pt}}$  —  $\overset{\cdot}{\rule{0.5cm}{0.4pt}}$

— / — · — ' — ·

**Two iamb. trim.**

— — — — —

— — — — —

**Two iamb. trim.**

— — — — — 2 dochm. + bacchic trip-  
ody cat.

— — — — —

## APPENDIX.

## I.

## FRAGMENTS OF NEOPHRON'S MEDEA.

(See Nauck, *Trag. Graec. Fragm.*, p. 565 flg.)

## 1.

καὶ γάρ τιν' αὐτὸς ἤλυθον λύσω μαθεῖν  
 σοῦ· Πυθίαν γὰρ ὄσσαν, ἣν ἔχρησέ μοι  
 Φοῖβου πρόμαντις, συμβαλεῖν ἀμηχανῶ·  
 σοὶ δ' εἰς λόγους μολῶν γ' ἂν ἤλπιζον μαθεῖν.

## 2.

εἶεν· τί δράσεις, θυμέ; βούλευσαι καλῶς  
 πρὶν ἢ ἐξαμαρτεῖν καὶ τὰ προσφιλέστατα  
 ἔχθιστα θέσθαι. ποῖ ποτ' ἐξῆξας, τάλας;  
 κάτισχε λῆμα καὶ σθένος θεοστυγές.  
 καὶ πρὸς τί ταῦτα δύρομαι ψυχὴν ἐμὴν  
 ὀρώσ' ἔρημον καὶ παρημελημένην  
 πρὸς ὧν ἐχρῆν ἥκιστα; μαλθακοὶ δὲ δὴ  
 τοιαῦτα γιγνώμεσθαι πάσχοντες κακὰ;  
 οὐ μὴ προδώσεις, θυμέ, σαυτὸν ἐν κακοῖς.  
 οἶμαι, δέδοκται· παῖδες, ἐκτὸς ὁμμάτων  
 ἀπέλθου· ἤδη γάρ με φοινία μέγαν  
 δέδουκε λύσσα θυμῶν. ὦ χέρες χέρες,  
 πρὸς οἷον ἔργον ἐξοπλιζόμεσθα· φεῦ,  
 τίλαιναι τάλμης, ἢ πολὺν πόνον βραχεῖ  
 διαφθεροῦσαι τὸν ἐμὸν ἔρχομαι χρόνῳ.

## ■

φέρει τέλος γὰρ αὐτὸς αἰσχίστην μάρτυρα  
 βροχῶν ἀγλῶν ἐπισπίαςας δέρη.

τοία σε μοῖρα σῶν κακῶν ἔργων μένει,  
 δίδαξις ἄλλοις μυρίοις ἐφημέροις  
 θεῶν ὑπερθε μήποτ' αἵρεσθαι βροτούς.

## II.

## FRAGMENTS OF ENNIUS' MEDEA.

(Ribbeck, Trag. Lat. Reliq., p. 36 flg.)

## 1. (Eurip. v. 1.)

Utinám ne in nemore Pélio secúribus  
 caesá cecidisset ábiegna ad terrám trabes,  
 neve índe navis íncohandae exórdium  
 coepísset, quae nunc nóminatur nómine  
 Argó, qua vecti Argívi delectí viri  
 petébant illam péllem inauratam árietis  
 Colchís, imperio régis Peliae, pér dolum.  
 Nam númquam era errans méa domo ecferrét pedem  
 Medéa, animo aegra, amóre saevo saúcia.

## 2. (v. 49.)

Antíqua erilis fída custos córporis,  
 quid síc te extra aedis éxanimata elíminas?

## 3. (v. 57.)

Cupído cepit míseram nunc me, próloqui  
 caelo átque terrae Médeaī míserias.

## 4. (v. 181.)

. . . . fluctus vérborum aures aúcupant.

## 5. (v. 214.)

Quaé Corinthum arcem áltam habetis, mátronaē opulentae,  
 óptumates —

Múlti suam rem béne gessere et públicam patriá procul,  
 múltí qui domi aétatem agerent, própterea sunt improbatí.

## 6. (v. 250.)

. . . . nam tér sub armis málim vitam cernere,  
quám semel modo párrere.

## 7. (v. 352.)

Si té secundo lúmine hic offéndero,  
moriére.

## 8. (v. 365.)

Néquaquam istuc ístac ibit: mágna inest certátio.

nám ut ego illis súpplícarem tánta blandiloquéntia —?

## 9. (v. 371.)

Ílle transversa ménte mi hodie trádídít repágula,  
quíbus ego iram omném recludam atque ílli perniciém dabo,  
míhi maerores, ílli luctum, exítium illi, exiliúm mihi.

## 10. (v. 502.)

Quo núnc me vortam? quód iter incipiam íngredi?  
domúm paternamne áñne ad Pelíae fílias?

## 11. (v. 530.)

Tú me amoris mágis quam honoris sérvavísti grátia.

## 12. (v. 764.)

Sol, quí candentem in caélo sublimás facem.

## 13. (v. 1069.)

. . . . . sálvete optima córpora,  
cétte manus vestrás measque accípíte . . . .

## 14. (v. 1251.)

Júppiter tuque ádeo summe Sól, qui omnis res ínspicis,  
quíque luminé tuo maria térram caelum cóntines,  
ínspice hoc facínús priusquam fíat: prohibessís scelus.

## 15. (See Introd. § 13.)

Qui ípse sibi sapiéns prodesse nóñ quit, nequiquám sapit.

## 16.

[Médea, utinam ne úmquam Colchis cúpido corde pedem éxtulisses.]

In all probability the two following fragments belong here too : —

**Inc. inc. fab. 94 (Eur. v. 476.)**

Nón commemoro quód draconis saévi sopivi ímpetum,  
nón quod domui vím taurorum et ségetis armataé manus.

**Enn. inc. nom. 25 (Eur. v. 714.)**

Ūt tibi Titánis Trivia déderit stirpem líberum.





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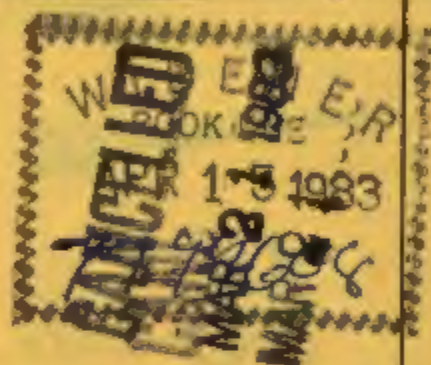
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